

Hafa Adai!

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DPS creates 2 teams to find Li

Rocks thrown at tour buses raise alarm

By DENNIS B. CHAN
dennis_chan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Recent incidents of rocks being thrown at tour buses have damaged glass, caused injury, and disrupted cultural exchange between foreign and CNMI students—leaving the industry concerned about this recurring trend.

On Jan. 15 this month, it was reported that a bus carrying 200 Japanese students was hit around

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Photo shows the damaged glass window of a PDI shuttle bus after it was hit by a rock thrown at the bus on Jan. 15, 2015. The bus was passing Tanapag Elementary School heading north around 2:45pm when a rock was suddenly thrown, hitting the right passenger side window.



SIDE BAR



TO STOP ROCK THROWING AT BUSES

DPS chief eyes more cops up north, active enforcement of speed limit

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Department of Public Safety Commissioner James C. Deleon Guerrero dis-

closed yesterday that they will be deploying more police officers to the north side of the island that are frequented by tourists where they will also be actively enforcing the speed limit law to stop

these reported incidents of rocks being thrown at buses and other vehicles transporting tourists.

Deleon Guerrero said there have been

See CHIEF on Page 4

» Police, Chinese search group still fail to locate missing businessman

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

With police and Chinese search groups failing to locate missing Saipan Fresh Market owner Zhi Yuan Li yesterday, the Department of Public Safety has created two teams that will search for the businessman round-the-clock.



A bigger team of investigators is assigned during daytime, he said.

"This is pretty much an ongoing 24-hour operation since the incident occurred," he said.

Li, 43, was reportedly last seen on Saturday at 11am seeing a friend at a tire shop in Puerto Rico. Li's family

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INSIDE



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President Obama unveils an ambitious State of the Union agenda.

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Japan weighs paying ransom for two Islamic State hostages.

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LIFE & STYLE

Tourists who ran up the "Rocky" steps get a selfie with Rocky himself.

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Local

Maratita to lead Rota delegation; chair of Tinian to be decided Friday

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Rep. Glenn L. Maratita (R-Rota) will be the next chairman of the Rota Legislative Delegation when the group holds its organizational session next week.

Sen. Teresita A. Santos (R-Rota), who as a member of the House of Representatives was chair of the local delegation, said the four members of the group have unanimously agreed to elect Maratita to head the delegation.

She also said that Sen. Steve

Mesngon (R-Rota) would serve as vice chairman, with Senate President Victor B. Hocog (Ind-Rota) becoming floor leader, while she will take on the role as legislative secretary.

Santos also clarified that the Rota Legislative Delegation organizational session will not be held this coming Monday.

"I will meet with members to find out when this organizational session will be held but it's not this Monday. We need to all sit down so we can finalize the date of the organizational session," she told *Saipan Tribune*

in a phone interview.

Sen. Francisco Borja (Ind-Tinian), meanwhile, said that while the leadership of the local delegations of Saipan and Rota appear to be set, the Tinian and Aguiuan Legislative Delegation would only be electing its officers tomorrow.

He said the delegation's organizational session would start at 2pm in his office at the Jesus P. Mafnas Memorial Building on Capital Hill.

"It's up to the members. At this time nothing has been decided. Our session on Friday is

organizational."

Aside from Borja, other members of the Tinian delegation are Sen. Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian), Sen. Francisco Q. Cruz (R-Tinian), and Rep. Edwin P. Aldan (Ind-Tinian).

The Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegation would be holding its own organizational session tomorrow at the House chamber with Rep. John Paul Sablan (R-Saipan) poised to win the chairmanship.

Expected to be voted the local delegation's vice chairman is Sen. Sixto Igisomar (R-Saipan), Committee on Education;

while the SNILD floor leader would be Rep. Angel Demapan (R-Saipan).

The agreed upon SNILD standing committee chairs, meanwhile, are Sen. Justo Quittuga (Ind-Saipan), Committee on Judicial and Governmental Operations; Sen. Arnold Palacios (R-Saipan), Committee on Federal and Foreign Relations;

Rep. Francis Taimanao (Ind-Saipan), Committee on Public Utilities, Transportations, and Communications; Rep. Felicidad Ogomoro (R-Saipan), Committee on Education;

House Speaker Joseph P. Deleon Guerrero, Committee on Health and Welfare; Rep. Lee Pan Guerrero (R-Saipan), Committee on Tourism; Rep. Antonio Sablan (Ind-Saipan), Committee on Way and Mean; vice speaker Ralph Demapan (R-Saipan), Committee on Natural Resources; and Rep. George Camacho (R-Saipan), Committee on Commerce.

John Paul Sablan, Igisomar, and Angel Demapan would serve as co-chairs of the SNILD standing Committee on Rules and Procedure.

PSS conference wants more parents involved in their kids' education

By DENNIS B. CHAN
dennis_chan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Public School System Parental Conference was held at the Saipan World Resort yesterday, drawing dozens of parents to talk about issues in public schools.

More than 200 parents were registered to join the conference, with education officials also present to talk with them about school issues like health and wellness, sex education, and discipline in public schools.

The CNMI State Parental Advisory Council organized the conference. Their current president is Fausia Maui Dela Cruz.

She told *Saipan Tribune* that her message yesterday was to urge parents to get more involved in their children's education, adding that communication between parents and their schools is "very important" to build "partnership between PSS and the parents for children success."

"We are the voice of the parents to PSS," she said.

The PAC president said they have also finalized their bylaws in November. Their goal with the bylaws is to make sure all Parent Teacher Associations

at PSS schools are "not doing their own thing."

"It's standardized and it's uniform now," she said.

PAC and counseling coordinator Frances Ulloa, who helped set up the event, said this year's conference was different in that they tried to get parents "out of their comfort zone" and interact with each other during learning sessions.

Before, parents usually grouped with others from their own schools, but this year they mixed parents of all schools into color-coded groups.

At least 10 parents were selected from each public school on island for the conference, she said. They hoped that the parents participating "could take what they learned and share it with the other parents."

Tinian and Rota will have their own separate parent summit, possibly around February, she said.

"Last year was a different setup where we invited the community to come and talk about what services are available. But this year it's kind of different... it's about what are some of the pressing issues that are going on in schools," she said.

They invited PSS officials

to talk about sex education in schools, wellness, discipline and truancy, and communication between student and parent, and parent and school, she said.

Lori Serna, PTA president for Gregorio T. Camacho School and PAC secretary, said the conference's message was to "empower parents to become

more engaged as parents" and to use the resources that PTA, PSS, principals, and teachers can offer them.

She said parents "don't have to be the whole resource for their child."

Serna, who is a dental hygienist at the Seventh Day Adventist Clinic, also urged

parents yesterday to watch the amount of sugar given to their kids.

She told the parents gathered that they are the role models for their children, and that if they are drinking soda and telling their children to drink water, "it will not work."

But she said that "it's nev-

er too late to change habits" and urged parents to take steps like limiting sweets to "Junk Food Fridays," or sticking to the natural sugar found in the abundant fruits on island, or making sure to have sweets with meals instead of snacks, to avoid cavities and promote health.

"They learn what we do, not what we tell them to do," she told the crowd.



DENNIS B. CHAN
Public school parents get their bodies moving as part of a health talk given by PSS nutritionist and registered dietitian Kaisa Anderson.



DENNIS B. CHAN
PSS Food and Nutrition Service director Dale Roberts leads a talk on wellness and healthy school lunches with parents at Saipan World Resort.



DENNIS B. CHAN
Hopwood Junior High School principal Jonas Barcenas leads a session on school discipline at the PSS Parental Conference yesterday.

Pilot without helmet crashes moped near airport

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie.delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A 27-year-old pilot sustained head injuries when the moped he was driving crashed on the wet road at the intersection going to the commuter terminal of the Saipan International Airport yesterday morning.

Zakaria Aweys Hassan was taken to the Commonwealth Health Center for treatment and observation for a concussion and laceration to the head, police said.

Department of Public Safety police spokesman Travis Hurst said Hassan, who was not wearing a helmet at the time of the crash, will face charges of reckless driving and driving under the influence.

DPS Commissioner James C. Deleon Guerrero confirmed that Hassan is a pilot.

Asked for comment, Star Marianas Air Inc. president Shaun R. Christian said he was made aware earlier yesterday that one of their employees was involved in a



Priority Medical staff and police officers attend to Zakaria Aweys Hassan after he crashed at the intersection going to the commuter terminal of the Saipan International Airport yesterday morning.

traffic accident and needed to be transported to the hospital.

Christian said Hassan was not on duty at the time of the accident nor did it happen on company property.

"So the company has no ability to comment on this matter," he said.

Hurst said DPS received a call of an automobile crash on Airport Road at the intersection to the commuter terminal yesterday at 7:18am.

Upon arrival, police traffic officers saw a man, later identified as Hassan, lying on the road next to a moped.

Priority Medical staff, who were in the area, treated Hassan's injuries. DPS Fire medics then brought him to the Commonwealth Health Center.

Hurst said Commonwealth Ports Authority officers assisted DPS officers with traffic control in the area.

Hurst said investigation concluded that Hassan lost control of the moped on the wet roadway while attempting to turn into the commuter terminal entrance drive at the airport while on his way to work.

Kilili hopes Congress will work with Obama

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

With President Barack Obama laying out his agenda in the last two years of his second term during his State of the Union Address yesterday in Congress, Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) hopes the Republican Party-dominated House of Representatives and Senate would be a willing partner for the President's ambitious plans.

"I thought the President presented good ideas for legislative action over the next two years, many of which could help us in the Northern Mariana Islands. And I hope that the new Republican leadership in Congress will prove willing to work with the President," said Sablan in an email to *Saipan Tribune*.

In general, the four-term congressman from the CNMI said the President was able to give a very strong speech because the U.S. as a whole is doing well after six years of his leadership.

"Unemployment is down. Economic growth is up. Graduation rates have improved. The country is less dependent on foreign oil. We have cut our carbon emissions. Of course, there are individuals in our country who are still hurting and areas of our country where more needs to improve. But even in the Northern Marianas our economy is growing. Tourism is up. We are sending more students to college. And we are beginning to see businesses and homeowners shifting away from imported oil to renewable energy sources," said Sablan.

But what really caught Sablan's attention during Obama's State of the Union Address was his proposal to make the nation's community colleges es-

sentially free.

"In particular I want to see Congress moving forward on the President's education agenda: helping more students attend and succeed in community colleges, making sure that those students are getting the training they need to fill jobs in the economy, putting more resources into early education. As a member of the House Committee on Education and the Workforce, I expect to be involved in the debate on those proposals," he said.

Sablan, however, cautioned that such plans won't happen

RELATED NEWS

Obama in State of the Union:
Tax wealthy, help middle class

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overnight, adding that he has also made sure that territories like the CNMI would be included in such noble plans.

"The challenge always is to make sure that the Northern Marianas tax system is based on the U.S. tax code. So I have to be very careful before I endorse any specific changes. I have to consult with the gov-

ernor and with the Northern Marianas Legislature. Because, for instance, new tax credits—such as those the President proposed—could reduce the Commonwealth's tax revenues and that hurts the Commonwealth government funding of education and health and other high priorities," he said.

He also said that much of the Obama's "opportunity" agenda, however, depends on changes in the tax code.

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STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS

Obama seizes on recovery, bets on staying power

By JIM KUHNHENN
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON (AP) -- President Barack Obama's State of the Union address marked a sweet spot in his presidency when economic signs and his own personal approval are on the rise. He made sure to capitalize, taking credit for policies he said raised the country out of its recession.

But sweet spots are by definition fleeting - moments in time that can just as quickly sour.

Tuesday's speech capped a remarkably activist 11 weeks since Obama suffered the humiliation of Democratic losses that gave Republicans control of both chambers of Congress. But this was not a lessons-learned address. Instead, Obama drew lines in the sand that cautioned against Republican overreach. And while he offered a nod to bipartisanship on issues such as trade, he pushed a traditional Democratic economic agenda

of tax increases for the rich, expanded paid leave for workers and increased aid for education.

For a president two months removed from a devastating political loss, this was not a speech uttered in retreat. Instead, he brashly wagged his finger at his critics.

"At every step, we were told our goals were misguided or too ambitious; that we would crush jobs and explode deficits," he said. "Instead, we've seen the fastest economic growth in over a decade, our deficits cut by two-thirds, a stock market that has doubled, and health care inflation at its lowest rate in 50 years."

The White House is betting that by promoting the economic successes, Obama can boost his governing credibility. By laying credit at the doorstep of his own administration, Obama is looking to gain leverage over Republicans and weaken their resolve to undo his go-it-alone initiatives on immigration, cli-

mate change and Cuba.

It's a better bet today than it was last year or the year before that. But the global economy remains fragile and while the U.S. is better positioned to withstand overseas pressures, it is not immune.

Europe is still wrestling with economic stagnation and questions remain about the fate of its shared currency, the euro. China's once exploding economy is slowing. Oil prices could bounce back up if OPEC nations decide to decrease production. And for all the improvements, the U.S. economy still has room to improve. Nearly 7 million people are working part-time but would prefer full-time work. Participation in the labor force dropped to a low of 62.7 percent. Some weaknesses predate the Great Recession; over more than three decades, productivity has increased but wages have stayed flat.

Still, the moment is for now Obama's to exploit.

A Washington Post-ABC News poll released Tuesday showed Obama with an approval rating of 50 percent, the poll's highest rating for the president in more than 18 months. Other polls also showed Obama's approval rising, though not as high. But the Post-ABC poll shows that Obama's better standing is largely the result of support coalescing among the groups that backed his presidential campaigns in the first place - Democrats, moderates, Hispanics and younger people.

Cheaper gas, lower unemployment, a strong stock market no doubt have contributed to the good feelings. So have issues that Obama has pushed that appeal to those groups, including his executive action to shield more than 4 million immigrants from deportation and his call for free community college for all.

But the success of Obama's remaining two years also depends on his relations with the ruling Republicans in Congress.

Obama cited trade as one of the most prominent topics that could attract bipartisan support. The president is seeking "trade promotion authority," or the ability to negotiate trade deals that Congress can either approve or reject but not change. He wants that in order to conclude two major commerce agreements - one with Europe and one with countries on the Pacific rim.

That's where Democrats and his allies in organized labor abandon him. To succeed Obama is going to have to apply pressure on his friends and risk taking a hit on his own approval ratings. It won't be easy. "Trade agreements or boosting wages? We can't do both," the liberal Economic Policy Institute de-

clared Tuesday.

So far, Obama and the GOP have stayed in their own corners, swinging at each other from a distance. Republicans began the year by seeking to undo Obama's immigration initiative, weaken provisions in the 2010 financial regulations law, and force approval of the Keystone XL oil pipeline from Canada. Obama countered with seven veto threats in quick succession, including two on the very day of his State of the Union address.

"Divided party government is always tough on a president," said American University presidential scholar James Thurber. It is even worse during the last two years of a presidency. "You're really a double lame duck."

ROCK

From Page 1

2:45pm, cracking the right passenger side window.

The bus was heading north and passing Tanapag Elementary School when it happened.

The 200 students brought by Pacific Development Inc. had just come from a cultural exchange visit with Kagman High School and were heading down to Marpi.

The incident was reported to the police, and the bus proceeded to the Last Command Post, where students were transferred to another bus to continue their schedule.

The damaged bus then went to the DPS office in Susupe to report the incident.

The January incident comes on top of another incident involving a Duty Free shuttle bus in December.

According to a statement by Duty Free to the Marianas Visitors Authority and Japan Saipan Travel Association, one passenger was injured when rocks were thrown at a DFS bus in Puerto Rico.

This passenger was reportedly injured, and taken to the hospital and an eye clinic. Fortunately, according to the statement, it was only a minor injury.

It is believed that more rock throwing has occurred in the

northern area, but has not been reported.

PDI's Gordon Marciano said they would like to "open up a dialogue" and "communicate with the community" on this pressing issue that could leave a "bad image for the CNMI when the only industry we have is tourism."

"Here we are promoting the CNMI and sharing with our local community and the [Public School System] about the importance of tourism but someone out there does not appreciate it," he said in email.

According to him, there was another incident of rock throwing in front of Mt. Carmel Church in March 2014. "Fortunately DPS was on site to take matters into their own hands."

In an interview yesterday, Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Perry Tenorio called these incidents "very concerning."

"We do a lot of outreach through MTEC [Marianas Tourism Education Council] to teach students the importance of tourism and also through other outreach programs on the importance of tourism to the CNMI's economy," he said.

"This behavior is discouraged. We seek the cooperation of DPS in investigating these incidents and take the necessary steps to prevent it from happening again."

DPS

From Page 1

reported his disappearance to DPS on Saturday at 7:56pm.

A patrol officer found Li's white Toyota Tacoma pickup truck abandoned on a dirt road between Ladder Beach and Obyan Beach on Sunday at 8am.

Deleon Guerrero said yesterday that whenever a lead comes in on Li's whereabouts, they have a readily available set of officers to deploy and investigate the matter.

Deleon Guerrero also disclosed that they are in constant communication with Li's immediate family.

"The reality of the situation is we do keep the family updated,"

he said.

Deleon Guerrero encouraged members of the community to share whatever information they have on Li's whereabouts.

"We are taking everything and anything seriously," he said.

The commissioner said they are now racing against time to find Li as the longer this drags on, the more dangerous it becomes for the store owner.

Deleon Guerrero stated that he is not implying that "something" happened to Li, but that they do have to take that as a possibility at this point.

"I am hopeful that we are going to be able to find Li in good health so he can be reunited with his family," he added.

Li has two daughters—ages 13 and 23—on Saipan.



President Barack Obama gives his State of the Union address before a joint session of Congress on Capitol Hill in Washington, Tuesday, Jan. 20, 2015.

CHIEF

From Page 1

reports about rocks being thrown at buses that are traveling particularly in Tanapag or in the north side of the island on their way to tourist spots.

"We are going to investigate these incidents," he promised. "Clearly, we do not condone any rock throwing against any tourist buses regardless of the type of activity they're engaged in."

Deleon Guerrero, however, pointed out that the community as well as the drivers of these buses must show responsible conduct.

He said he has learned that a lot of these buses have also been speeding.

"The tour operators also have to be mindful that [speeding buses] also present significant highway safety risks to oncoming pedestrians as well as other motorists within that area," he said.

The commissioner said the way this will all work for the community as well as the tour operators is for both sides to abide by the law.

He said this means people should report to the police anyone involved in these rock throwing incidents.

Tour operators, in turn, Deleon Guerrero said, should drive responsibly on the highway and not speed so they will not pose safety risks to pedestrians and other motorists.

"I would like to warn operators of buses and other tour ve-

hicles to be mindful that we are going to be actively enforcing the traffic laws," he said.

In the event that these speeding continue, Deleon Guerrero said buses or other tour vehicles will be subject to impoundment.

"The same applies to members of the community who are throwing rocks. If they are caught, they will be subject to arrest and potential prosecution," he said.

"We do not want anybody to get injured. We do not want anybody to get hurt as a result of these incidents," Deleon Guerrero said.

The commissioner said they had previously deployed officers in the Tanapag area or north side of the island and the rock throwing incidents stopped.

"Unfortunately, we can't be there all the time just for monitoring the speed," he said.

He concedes that these incidents do present a bad image for the CNMI.

"We don't want this to continue because it causes a stain on our tourism industry," he said.

DPS acting police director Pete Leon Guerrero for his part said they will be strictly enforcing laser speed detection in those areas.

Leon Guerrero said some members of the community are fed up with buses traveling at high speed going north and south of the island.

He said there is a potential threat that buses might hit pedestrians or run out of control due to speeding.

PACIFIC CENTURY FELLOWS

DENNIS B. CHAN

Leo Pangelinan, Northern Marianas College dean of Students Services, is joined by Patricia Coleman, acting dean of NMC's Cooperative Research Extension and Educational Services, after the Pacific Century Fellows Marianas Chapter celebrated its inaugural "Class of 2014" graduation at the Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan last Thursday night.

6 nominees for Saipan Chamber's 2014 Business Person of the Year

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce will announce its 2014 Business Person of the Year this Saturday, Jan. 24, during its Installation Dinner at the Hibiscus Hall of the Fiesta Resort and Spa Saipan.

Chamber executive director Jill Arenovski said six are nominated for the prestigious plum for 2014.

They are Maureen Maratita, Glimpses Publications publisher; Michael S. Sablan, vice president of Finance and Administration at Triple J Saipan; Charles Cepeda, Pacific Trading general manager; James Nelson, Docomo Pacific general manager; Vicky Benavente, Pacific Islands Club Saipan executive assistant; and Ron Smith, Angil Design, Inc. owner.

"They are nominated by Chamber members and judged by past Chamber Business Person of the Year winners," said Arenovski.

Aside from the announcement of the winner of the 2014 Business Person of the Year, Best Sunshine International Ltd. CEO Mark A. Brown will also serve as the event's keynote speaker.

Also speaking before the estimated 180 in attendance is Michael Sablan Coleman,

who was recently promoted to the position of CEO of an investment brokerage firm in Glendale, California.

Coleman is the grandson of the late Peter Tali Coleman, the former Deputy High Commissioner of the Trust Territory, and David M. Sablan, corporate consultant for Century Insurance Co., who is also a former president of the Chamber.

As far as the installation of officers during the Chamber's Installation Dinner is concerned, the business organization would be swearing in new board of directors members Donna Krum, C.E. "Bud" White, Christopher Concepcion of Delta Air Lines, Mabel Ayuyu of Re/Max, and Wayne Gillespie of The Salvation Army.

Ayuyu, Gillespie, Krum, and White will replace outgoing secretary Greg Moretti, Kevin McCale, Rosemond B. Santos, and Nola K. Hix as directors.

The four will also join current directors led by Chamber president Alex A. Sablan, vice president Velma Palacios, and director Ron Smith.

Arenovski also reminded that a silent auction would be held during the Installation Dinner that will offer fabulous prizes. Tickets are \$50/person, and tables of eight persons are available.

ON STORE OWNER'S DISAPPEARANCE

Torres: We'll get to bottom of that

Lt. Gov. Ralph DLG. Torres assured the community that law enforcement agencies are doing their best to solve the mystery of missing Saipan Fresh Market owner Zhi Yuan Li as well as the previous unsolved murders on Saipan that he hinted could all be interconnected.

"We should look at the situation closer and see what's involved, knowing the fact that the last two victims were related to the missing storeowner. Whatever it is we need to get back to the roots of these [crimes]. It's not coincidence I guess and it's something we have to monitor," he told *Saipan Tribune* after attending the Catholic School Week proclamation signing Tuesday at Mount Carmel School.

Torres added that in the case of Li and the homicide of his uncle as well as four other murders involving the Chinese community the past two years, the government would like to

have those cases solved.

"We want to make sure that all crimes are investigated fairly. Certain crimes involve gambling, extortion, and drugs. We'll get to the bottom of all of that," he said.

In a media briefing last Tuesday, Department of Public Safety Commissioner James C. Deleon Guerrero said the search for the missing Li is still ongoing. He also quashed rumors that the affable businessman's body parts were found.

The 43-year-old Li is the nephew of Hai Ren Li, one of two Chinese farmers who were murdered and their bodies dumped at the old runway in Koblerville last November.

Last Feb. 23, the bodies of Guo Huang Xu and his wife, Qing Xiu Zheng, both farmers, were found charred inside their house that had been burned to the ground. Police classified the case as a double homicide. (*Mark Rabago*)



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S. Korean professor treats JKPL readers to soothing music

By JAYSON CAMACHO
jayson.camacho@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Visiting South Korean professor of music Changwoo Sohn treated Joeten Kiyu Public Library's readers and attendees yesterday afternoon to soothing classical music.

Playing on a double bass, Sohn performed several songs, including special keyboard arrangements by JKPL's technical service librarian Rosalyn Ajoste.

The audience sat down in a row of chairs to listen to Sohn play.

Also called the string bass, the double bass is the largest and lowest-pitched bowed string instrument of the viol family.

A member of the audience said that what Sohn was doing for the library is very good.

"It's a treat to the people here. It's not too loud and it's not bothering at all. It's the type of music where you can read and concentrate while in the library," he said.

Sohn and Ajoste played at least five songs together, followed by Sohn performing some songs as a soloist.

Some of the songs that Sohn performed were *L'Elephant* by Camille Saint-Saens, *Tortues* by Saint-Saens, and *Moon River* from *Carnival of Animals*.

"I chose these top three music and chose to play it with Ajoste for the piano part," he said.

He has been playing the double bass for over 25 years since he was in junior high. He now teaches at the Kookmin University in Seoul and is a professor at the College of Art/Department of Music.

He is also the principle double bass for the Euro-Asian Philharmonic Orches-



tra and Kkonggi Philharmonic Orchestra.

"I came to Saipan because my family has a business here for 25 years already, but it is my fourth time to visit Saipan," Sohn said.

Sohn also studied at Yale University for his master's degree and is pursuing his doctorate at the Boston

University.

"This is kind of 'giving back' to Saipan and sharing my talent with them. This is the first

time where I will be playing on Saipan and I will be returning in either summer or winter for vacation," Sohn said.

Sohn will be playing at the Multi-Purpose Center next

Tuesday at 6pm and the community is invited. Entrance fee is at \$5 for adults and \$3 for children.

"Proceeds from my solo recital at the Multi-Purpose [Center] will be donated to the Saipan Community Church and for the rental of keyboards from Saipan Southern High School," Sohn said.

Sohn played during the orchestral concert held at the American Memorial Park last

week and also played at JKPL on Jan. 10.

Ajoste said that JKPL is honored to have such a talented musician play for their readers.

"It is a great honor to have him here and play twice for the library and we are thankful for him showing his talents to the patrons here," Ajoste said.

Geothermal exploration project still going through permitting process

By JAYSON CAMACHO
jayson.camacho@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s exploratory geothermal well drilling project needs to undergo several certification processes before it could actually start the project.

According to John Gourley of Micronesian Environmental Services, who is a consultant on the project, three permits or authorizations need to get through before anything can be done.

One is a major siting permit from the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality's Coastal Resource Management. An Earthmoving and Erosion Control and well-drilling permit will also be required from the Division of Environmental Quality.

Gourley said the project must also comply with the standards established by the Office of Insular Affairs under the National Environmental Policy Act. An Environmental Assessment has been developed and will soon go under review by the appropriate federal agencies. Once all federal and local permits and authorizations have been completed, OIA can release the funds to CUC to implement the project.

Gourley said yesterday that

the major siting permit from DCRM was certified complete by the DCRM board during yesterday's meeting.

The project site is located in Gualo Rai at the site of CUC's existing well called GR6. The well is about 400 feet deep and is currently not being used for production.

4i's CNMI, LLC was awarded a contract from CUC last July in joint venture with Maeville Energy and Alexander Drilling of the CNMI to begin work assessing geothermal resource potential for Saipan.

Developing alternative energy sources such as geothermal power is key to plans that the CUC has been developing to ensure long-term, stable, and affordable energy sources for the people of CNMI.

Once verified and with strategic planning, geothermal could be integrated into the islands' grid, providing energy diversity and stable base loads while lowering consumer rates and eliminating a portion of the islands' import costs by reducing the need for oil.

The project would be funded by a grant from the Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs to the CUC.

CHCC 5-year strategic plan nearly done

By JAYSON CAMACHO
jayson.camacho@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. will soon be distributing its five-year strategic plan to all CNMI leaders and stakeholders to solicit their comments and feedback, according to chief executive officer Esther Muña.

Although no date has been set yet, Muña said the plan will be ready for distribution early this year.

"This is one of our commitments to improving the standards of services to the people of the CNMI and to those who visit our beautiful islands," Muña said.

CHCC has been developing the strategic plan for the years 2015 to 2020, with the help of the Pacific Island Health Officers Association, which was contracted by WestCare Pacific Islands to help with the project.

"Developing the strategic plan required the involvement of over a hundred staff, managers, community partners and volunteers in formulating the strengths and weaknesses to capture the desired outcomes for its varied health care systems on Saipan, Tinian and Rota," Muña said.

"As the CNMI addresses its socio-economic challenges, including stimulating economic growth, expanding educational

opportunities and improving capacity building of our local workforce, CHCC focuses on improving the overall health and well-being of the CNMI population," she added.

As a result of CHCC's strategic planning, the hospital now has a vision, values, and mission statement.

"For decades the people who called the CNMI 'home' have travelled off-island, sometimes to foreign countries, spending thousands of dollars for health care. Leaving family behind to seek care for medical, behavioral health, and other conditions can be not only expensive and a financial strain on a family but the emotional support that helps to heal is often limited when a patient is off-island," she said.

One big goal that CHCC looks forward to for this year and the upcoming years is "affordable and accessible care" here.

"We visualize a thriving and highly efficient system that is responsive and responsible in every aspect of the work we do in prevention, treatment and aftercare for all that come to our doors. We seek partnerships with the government, our business and nonprofit partners and our consumers to make this vision possible," Muña said.



DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

Caller Box 10007, Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality (BECQ) Office,
Middle Road, Gualo Rai, Saipan MP 96950
Tel. No. 664-8300 • Fax No. 664-8315



NOTICE OF APPLICATION

January 22, 2015

THE FOLLOWING IS A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF COASTAL PERMIT APPLICATIONS RECEIVED BY THE CRM OFFICES:

APPLICANT	DATE APPLICATION RECEIVED	APPLICATION PROJECT DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	TYPE	STATUS
1. C.U.C	11/07/2014 SMS-2014-X-054	Exploratory Geo-Thermal Well	Gualo Rai	Major Siting	Approved (01/21/2015)*
2. Capital Improvement Project	11/26/2014 TMS-2014-X-058	Tinian Municipal Transfer Station	Tinian	Major Siting	Certified Complete (01/21/2015)
3. Honest Profit Int'l Ltd.	12/31/2014 SMS-2014-X-066	Honest Profit Saipan Resort Hotel	San Antonio	Major Siting	Certified Complete (01/21/2015)
4. Windsurfing Saipan Inc	12/20/2014 SLRm-2014-X-067	33rd Micronesian Open	Micro Beach	Lagoon & Reef APC	Approved (01/14/2015)*
5. Saipan Sunset Cruise, Inc.	01/15/2015 SLRm-2015-X-001	In-Water Vessel Maintenance	Marina Cove	Lagoon & Reef APC	Approved (01/16/2015)*
6. Saipan Sunset TV Production	01/15/2015 SSm-2015-X-002	Photographic Activities	Shoreline Areas	Shoreline APC	Approved (01/16/2015)*
7. D.P.W.	01/20/2015 SMS-2015-X-003	Route 33 Road Project	San Antonio-Garapan	Major Siting	Under Review

Require all permit applications to be published in a local newspaper within 15 days of receipt of application. The list reflects recently received permit applications and those with a recent change in status. New applications are marked with an asterisk (*).

The Public is invited to submit written comments regarding any of the above projects for which a permit decision has not been issued. All permit comments should identify the project by application number. Your comments should be mailed or hand-delivered to the DCRM Office. All persons who desire a public hearing regarding any project may do so by submitting a written request for a public hearing to the DCRM Office within fourteen (14) days for minor permits (APC's) and proposed amended major sitings. Public Hearings are required for all new major siting projects. All public hearing notices are published in a local newspaper of general circulation. Residents of Rota and Tinian may submit comments and hearing requests to their local DCRM Coordinator. Persons wishing to retain the right to appeal a DCRM Permit decision must file a notice of appeal with the DCRM office within thirty (30) days of the issuance of the DCRM permit decision as provided in Part 200 § 15-10-235 of the DCRM Regulations.

DUE TO NO SCOPE OF WORK ON DRAINAGES Kagman paving permit remains on hold at DFW

By JAYSON CAMACHO
jayson.camacho@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI Division of Fish and

Wildlife has put off signing a permit for the Kagman and San Vicente road paving project due to a minor setback in the scope of

work, according to Rep. Lorenzo Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan).

In an interview yesterday, Deleon Guerrero said that DFW

has put the permit on hold as the project's scope of work does not indicate a permanent drainage where the runoff will go.

"The scope of work does not provide any information on a permanent drainage, on how will the runoff water be diverted

Swift Air executives' motion for separate trial on issues denied

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie.delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona has denied Swift Air executives Jeffry Conry's and Boris Van Lier's motion to separately try the issues of liability and damages in Saipan Air's lawsuit against them.

In an order on Tuesday, Manglona said she doesn't see how a joint trial of liability and compensatory damages would prejudice either side.

Believing that bifurcation would be wasteful, Manglona said the witnesses and most of the evidence relevant to liability are also relevant to the amount of damages and would overlap.

Manglona said damages are intertwined with detrimental reliance, one of the elements of Saipan Air's fraud claim.

"The lion's share of alleged compensatory damages relate to two large wire transfers, evidence of which cannot be separated from the issue of liability," she said.

Manglona said Saipan Air's counsel, Steven Pixley, an experienced trial attorney, has assured the court that he doesn't expect the trial of all issues to take much more than a week.

"The court takes him at his word that the presentation of evidence of damages, includ-

ing a reasonable opportunity for cross-examination by defendants, will not drag on and create confusion," she said.

Manglona said the remaining issue is whether to separate the determination of punitive damages from the rest of the trial.

Citing precedent, Manglona said punitive and compensatory damage claims are normally tried together if the evidence overlaps substantially.

The judge said defendants have not asserted any other reason for separate determination of punitive damages.

"The danger of unfair prejudice in the liability phase from presentation of evidence of a defendant's wealth usually arises in toxic-tort or product-liability cases against corporations with a net worth in the billions of dollars," she said.

That is not the situation in this case, she added.

Manglona said because defendants' primary concern about a joint trial of compensatory and punitive damages will be alleviated by evidentiary rulings, the request for separate determination of punitive damages is denied.

Conry and Van Lier, through counsel Michael White, asked the court to issue an order separating the liability and damages phases of the trial scheduled for Feb. 2, 2015.

White argued, among other

things, that the issue of liability for the alleged fraud is separate and distinct from the amount of damages Saipan Air claims it is entitled to.

In its lawsuit, Saipan Air is seeking \$2.54 million in compensatory damages and \$10 million in punitive damages.

In Saipan Air's opposition to the motion, Pixley said this case is not complex and bifurcation is not required. He said introducing all evidence to the jury in one proceeding is the most ef-

ficient way to go about this trial.

"Bifurcation will not contribute to judicial economy because it will result in two separate trials," he pointed out.

Last month, Manglona ruled that Saipan Air's fraud claim against Conry and Van Lier shall proceed, but not against Swift Air's Donald A. Stukes.

Conry and Van Lier are currently employed by Arizona-based Swift Air, which emerged from bankruptcy in 2013.

Saipan Air filed the racketeer-

ing lawsuit against Conry, Van Lier, and Stukes in July 2012.

Swift Air filed for bankruptcy protection in Arizona shortly after notifying Saipan Air that it would not deliver two 757 aircraft and one 737 aircraft for Saipan Air's program.

Saipan Air was unable to sue Swift Air directly because of the bankruptcy filing.

The trial, which will commence on Feb. 2, 2015, will be against the Conry and Van Lier relating to the fraud claims.

to a basin," he said.

Deleon Guerrero said that DFW is waiting for a response from the Department of Public Works on the scope of work.

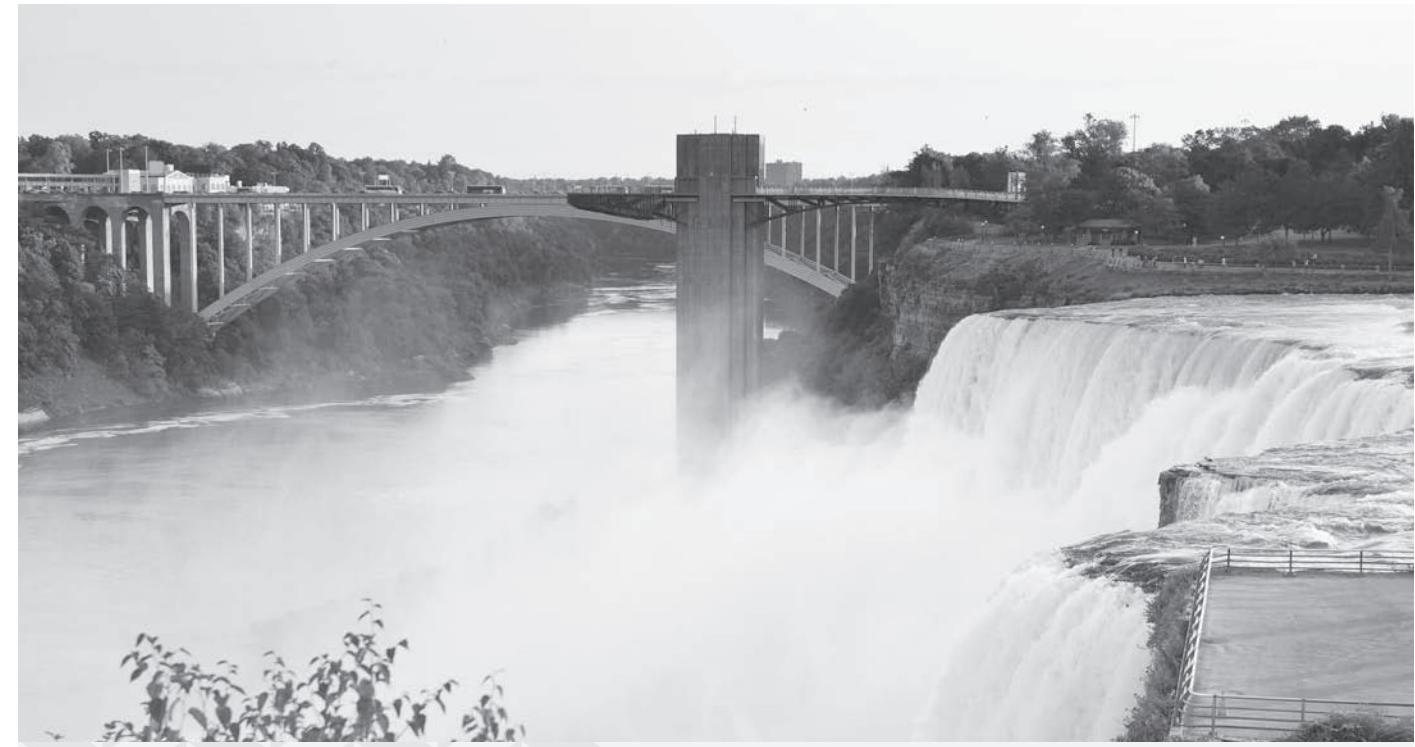
"They are now awaiting DPW's response basically for additional information for the runoff before they issue the permit," he said.

According to him, there are basin areas in Kagman where the water could be diverted to. "I know there are several areas that have ponding basins."

Almost all regulatory agencies have signed off on the road project, which is estimated to cost \$506,446.94.

The project involves paving four areas. Three roads are in Kagman: Pine Drive, Chopak Drive, and Mangga Street. The fourth one is Katbun Drive in San Vicente, near Stanford Resort.

Deleon Guerrero noted that DFW might sign off on the permit today, Jan. 22.



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	West Coast	Starting \$1,237	SLX27NEH	7 Days	3 Months	FHB15A	01 Feb 15 – 31 May 15	15-Feb-15
	East Coast	Starting \$1,405	WLX27NEH					

Ticketing Requirement: Tickets must be issued within 3 days after reservations are made or at least 7 days prior to scheduled departure, whichever is earlier, but no later than February 15, 2015. The itinerary must include travel between Guam and Honolulu on one of the following flights, UA 200 & UA 201. Travel via Japan is not permitted.

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For United ticketing agent, refer to CORE Reservations > Promos and Communications > FHB.

Ortizo is co-president of VCU student association

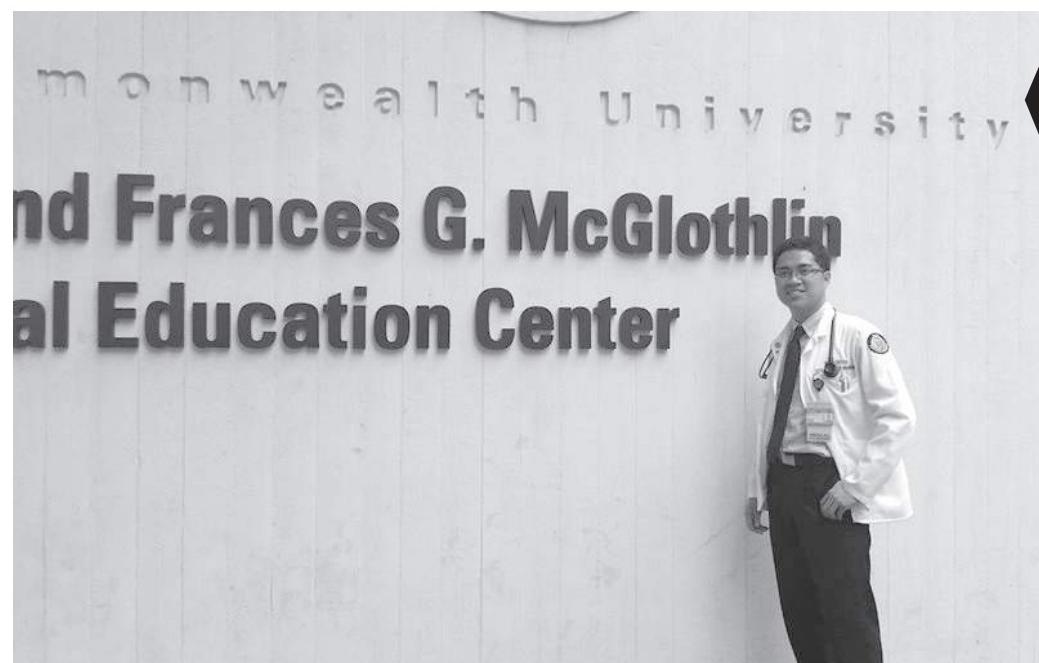
By THOMAS MANGLONA II
CORRESPONDENT

Ryan Ortizo recently became co-president of the Emergency Medical Student Association at the Virginia Commonwealth University School of Medicine. As co-president, the Saipan native will be working closely with several emergency physicians and students as they explore their vocation in the medical field.

According to the university's website, the group's purpose is to cultivate interest in and increase knowledge about a career in emergency medicine, with emphasis on learning skills, to assist with current academic and clinical skills.

"My role as co-president include planning educational and informational events for medical students to learn more about the work, the responsibilities, and typical lifestyle that emergency medicine has to offer," he told *Saipan Tribune* in an email.

Ortizo said he is humbled by the opportunity and hopes to



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Ryan Ortizo, Co-President of the Emergency Medical Student Association at the Virginia Commonwealth University School of Medicine.

learn imperative medical skills and further develop a deeper understanding of how "this particular field of medicine functions."

"I think part of the educational process of becoming a mature physician involves not only learning the theory and clinical techniques they teach you in class, but also going out and

experiencing the greater scope of medicine and exploring the plethora of medical specialties out there."

The Mount Carmel School alumnus described his new role as "an extension to my education."

Ortizo utilizes much of his free time working with various

student organizations and volunteering his services as a medical student in the community.

His mother, Myrna, told *Saipan Tribune* that she feels

"blessed and I am so happy and proud of his accomplishment. My son Ryan has earned his success because of his determination, character, focus, hard work, and courage."

Ortizo remains active on campus while juggling his academic responsibilities as well. He is involved in several organizations on campus, including the American Medical Student Association, where he serves as the Community and Public Health Action Committee representative of the local chapter. As a representative, Ortizo has planned several events for his school, such as conducting free blood pressure screening drives

and holding informational sessions on issues revolving around nutrition and its wider impact on community health.

Ortizo also acts as conduit between the student body and student health services, which helps make decisions on student health care policies.

These experiences, he said, has provided him with valuable skills for his medical profession.

Ortizo hopes that CNMI youth "remember that time is a precious thing" while pursuing their academic and vocational goals.

"Lost time is never found again. Learn to manage your time. Do what's important now, and you'll find yourself with a lot more time later."

"I would encourage all students interested in a medical career to volunteer and see if they enjoy this profession as much as I do," he added.

Delta to launch daily LA, Shanghai flights

LOS ANGELES—Delta Air Lines plans to begin daily nonstop service between Los Angeles International Airport and Shanghai-Pudong Airport on July 9, 2015, pending U.S. Department of Transportation and foreign government approval.

The Los Angeles market makes up 25 percent of all U.S.-Asia demand, and the start of Shanghai service marks Delta's fourth daily nonstop flight to the Asia-Pacific region in addition to Tokyo-Narita, Tokyo-Haneda and Sydney.

Delta's Los Angeles-Shanghai flight will connect customers to more than 25 cities in China, while the Los Angeles-bound Shanghai flight will offer con-

nnections to 40 markets throughout the U.S., Canada and Latin America. The route will operate using a 291-seat Boeing 777-200LR aircraft with 37 full flat-bed seats in BusinessElite, 36 seats in Economy Comfort and 218 seats in Economy class.

Combined with its hubs in Detroit, Seattle and Tokyo-Narita, Delta will operate 42 weekly departures to China's global financial center. Additionally, Delta offers daily service to China's capital, Beijing, from both Seattle and Detroit.

With recent international additions, Delta serves the top five Asian markets from Seattle: Seoul, Tokyo, Beijing, Shang-

hai and Hong Kong.

"Delta's new nonstop service provides our business customers with more access to Shanghai and markets beyond through our partnerships with China Eastern Airlines and China Southern Airlines," said Ranjan Goswami, Delta's vice president of Sales - West. "This route was the most requested by our corporate customers, and everyone will enjoy the investments we've made to upgrade our airport facilities, our onboard service, full flat-bed seats with direct aisle access in BusinessElite, and industry-leading complimentary in-flight entertainment." (*Delta Air Lines*)

ordered that Wu be turned over to a federal immigration official immediately for deportation. If immediate deportation fails and Wu is released pending further immigration proceedings, he must immediately report to the U.S. Probation Office to begin his probation. Assistant U.S. Attorney Kirk Schuler recommended the one-year probation sentence. Attorney Thomas Clifford, counsel for Wu, agreed with the recommendation.

of 2014 for failing to timely report employment.

The territory's Department of Public Health and Social Services said Tuesday 20 people were disqualified for buying ineligible items with their benefits cards.

Nearly 16,000 households including more than 47,000

as most victimized by thieves and burglars. The string of robbery incidents, recorded from the last days of December 2002 to date, have caught the attention of authorities, prompting them to draft a proposed measure that would impose stiffer penalties on these perpetrators. Two persons in Chalan Kanoa filed the latest incident, which was reported Sunday evening.

January 22, 2006

Fitial to take control of MPLA

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial announced Friday that he will soon suspend the board and take full control of the Marianas Public Lands Authority to stop the agency from wasting public funds. "I am going to take over the board so they will no longer waste public funds," Fitial said during a press conference. "I strongly feel that they are wasting public funds and they shouldn't be doing that. If you rate their performance versus the money they have spent, you wouldn't find a letter in the alphabet to grade them."

All that jazz

Kimberlyn King-Hinds, chair for the Board of Regents of the Northern Marianas College, walked up the stage at the Royal Taga Hall of the World Resort Hotel Saturday night to declare the board's unequivocal intent: "to make NMC the first choice for the Commonwealth's brightest." This will happen, she said, not by depending on what the government will do, but on what community residents will do. "We are all responsible," she declared. NMC's Board of Regents celebrated the College's silver anniversary with a Gala Dinner Saturday evening to raise scholarship funds to be offered to top rank graduating students from Saipan, Tinian and Rota.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

January 22, 2010

Man allegedly beats up veterinarian over dog's death

A man allegedly beat up a veterinarian outside his clinic in Chalan Lau Lau over the death of a dog. The Office of the Attorney General has charged Jeremy Togawa Sasamoto with assault and battery, and disturbing the peace. The victim, Dr. Edgar Gordon Tudor, reportedly sustained a cut above the left eye that required several stitches during treatment at the Commonwealth Health Center. According to court documents, the assault happened outside the Paradise Island Veterinarian Animal Hospital on Oct. 29. Detective Jackson Jack stated in his report that, as Dr. Tudor was closing up for the day, he heard a loud banging coming from the animal hospital's window glass.

Another in human smuggling case pleads guilty

Another defendant in the human smuggling case entered a guilty plea yesterday and was sentenced to one year probation. Yi Wu, a male Chinese national, agreed to plead guilty to one count of attempted improper entry by an alien. U.S. District Court for the NMI designated judge David A. Wiseman accepted Wu's plea and required him to immediately pay a \$10 court assessment fee. He

January 22, 2003

Witness: Benavente admitted shooting niece by accident

"It was already getting dark. Around 6pm. As I was aiming the gun, I was just looking at the target. After firing six shots, I heard shouts, 'Hold, hold, hold, hold!' When I looked, I saw my niece shouting...running. I saw my [other] niece lying down. She was moving. She was moaning. I just picked her up." Thus did former police detective Mark Taisacan give his testimony yesterday, quoting Anthony T. Benavente's statement during the investigation of the Jan. 27 accidental shooting case that killed the suspect's 7-year-old niece. Taisacan related that he took Benavente's testimony of what had happened at the Talofofo farm at the conference room of the Department of Public Safety.

Burglary cases on the rise, tighter steps eyed

For the first 22 days of January, theft cases continued to increase as authorities recorded more than 18 theft and burglary cases, collated reports showed. Tourists filed majority of the theft and burglary incidents, prodding the police to conduct crackdown operations in several tourist areas. Grocery stores followed tourists

Torres says new Cabinet possibly by month's end

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

While the nominations of acting Department of Lands and Natural Resources secretary Richard Seman and acting Commerce secretary Mark Rabauliman have been made, Lt. Gov. Ralph DLG. Torres said the public shouldn't hold their breath as to when the rest of the new Cabinet would finally shape up.

"We're going to be working on the transition report this week so the decision may be this

week or next week," said Torres in an interview with *Saipan Tribune* Tuesday morning at Mount Carmel School where he spearheaded the proclamation of Catholic School Week.

Torres said Gov. Eloy S. Inos may have a clear idea on who will be nominated or retained and that a new Cabinet could finally be announced by end of January.

"There are some Cabinet members who will stay and there are some Cabinet members who would be shifting to other responsibilities," he said.

Saipan Tribune earlier reported that the makeup of the new Cabinet would be based on the transition report that will be submitted by Committee on Transition chair Gregorio M. Camacho.

With the nominations of Rabauliman and Seman, the current Cabinet is now composed of Finance Secretary Larrisa Larson, Community and Cultural Affairs Secretary Laura

Ogumoro, Labor Secretary Edith Deleon Guerrero, Public Works Secretary Martin Sablan, Public Lands Secretary Pete A. Tenorio, Public Safety Commissioner James Deleon Guerrero, Corrections Commissioner Ramon Mafnas, Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Perry Tenorio, Chief Public Defender Doug Hartig, special assistant for Management and Budget Virginia Villagomez,

special assistant for Homeland Security and Emergency Management Marvin Seman, Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality administrator Frank Rabauliman, special assistant for administration Esther Fleming, Carolinian Affairs Office director Jose Limes, Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority special assistant Thomas J. Camacho, Women's Affairs Office special assistant Remy Buniag, and acting press secretary Ivan Blanco.

Inos requested his Cabinet

to submit courtesy resignations immediately after his and Torres' victory in the runoff election in December.

Helping Committee on Transition chair Gregorio M. Camacho complete the transition report is a Transition Executive Committee made up of James Ada as vice chairman and members Rufin S. Inos, Edward C. Deleon Guerrero, Esther S. Fleming, Mathilda A. Rosario, representative-elect Angel A. Demapan, and Torres brothers Vince, Victorino, and Joaquin.



Torres



Cha Cafe employees smile for a photo during their shift last weekend.

THOMAS MANGLONA

Cha to expand into a bakery in March

»Lee: It's about making customers happy

By THOMAS MANGLONA II
CORRESPONDENT

For the past two years Cha has satisfied its customers' taste buds

and cravings with their variety of luscious pearl shakes and frappes bursting with flavor. The small business at the Garapan corner building on Beach Road is ex-

panding its menu and size to raise the quality of its products and services for residents and tourists alike.

The Los Angeles-inspired

hip, urban, boardwalk cafe belongs to John Lee and will be rebranded to Cha Cafe and Bakery in March. According to Lee, Cha's current location will be moved to a larger room in the same building, owned by his fa-

ther Yang Hoon Lee.

"The new cafe and bakery is five times larger than our current business," he told *Saipan Tribune*. "We are going to have study tables around the area for students. We are also hoping that adults stop by in the morning to get coffee and pastries."

Lee, a current law and business student, drew inspiration for the new business' design from coffee shops he visited while studying in New York, Los Angeles, and Germany.

Customers can expect a hot cup of coffee to complement the bakery's "high-end cakes and pastries" with Cha's new coffee line, brewed by their custom-made Italian espresso machine.

Before even getting a taste of the cakes and pastries, customers will be able to watch the pastry chef make them on black marble stone countertops, behind a glass pastry display case.

Lee hopes the investment will provide residents and tourists with higher quality food and drink options on island.

"The reason why we see so many of our customers come back is because our products are consistently good," he said. "We are focusing on making

customers happy. The standards we have are comparable to the best cafes in New York."

"I did not expect it to come this far," he added. "When I was planning to open the business I knew that there were a lot of risks and benefits. In the end, the benefits outweighed the risks."

A soft opening will be held in a few weeks following the completion of the renovation. According to Lee, Cha Cafe and Bakery will be open from 7am to 10pm after its grand opening, slated to occur in March.

Cha's commitment to the island community reaches beyond quality products and services. The business aims to hire Northern Marianas College and local high school students and even provide scholarships for its employees. With the expansion, Lee said that Cha will be offering to pay a selected employee's full tuition for the school year.

Cha employee Tommy Boy Atalig said the expansion "will heighten the standards of businesses on Saipan."

"My favorite part of the job is getting to meet people and tourists. I know that with the expansion, everything will be new and better," he added.

Bordallo statement on the State of the Union

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Delegate Madeleine Z. Bordallo issued yesterday the following statement after attending a joint session of Congress to receive President Obama's State of the Union Address. She was joined by Peter Camit, president of the Guam Society of America, who viewed the address from the House Gallery as Bordallo's guest.

"Tonight President Obama laid out an aggressive agenda that will continue to build the economy and lift the middle class," said Bordallo. "Overall, many of the President's proposals will make significant investments in middle-class families. However, Congress must remain focused on eliminating sequestration or funding any of these initiatives will be difficult. We have many ways to solve sequestration, and I hope congressional leaders are serious about ending the awful effects of se-



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Delegate Madeleine Z. Bordallo is joined by Peter Camit, president of the Guam Society of America, prior to the State of the Union address. Camit viewed the address from the House Gallery as Bordallo's guest.

questration on federal spending. We have an opportunity over the next several months, before the next presidential election begins in earnest, to address a wide range of issues, but it must start with addressing sequestration."

"Additionally, I am looking forward to having a more comprehensive discussion on the President's proposal for free tuition for students attending a community college. I support the President's intent to ensure

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy 7th birthday, Tayshawn John F. Benavente! May the good Lord continue to bless and guide you. Keep up the outstanding achievements in school. Greetings from your family and play date crew.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Opinion

Hapa Adai!

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Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
editor@saipantribune.com

Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Winners and losers in the oil bust

The recent plunge in oil prices is great news for almost everyone. Motorists pay less at the pump for gas; airlines save money on jet fuel; retailers are likely to profit from the estimated \$130 billion consumers will have to spend on other stuff. The economy should grow a bit faster, too. The trade balance will improve, since the United States still imports more petroleum products than it exports.

But some people were not cheering as prices fell by over half in recent months—starting with those in the industry. Energy-related companies are laying off workers. Rigs are being shut down, and new drilling is being postponed.

Places that have ridden the oil wave into prosperity may find themselves beached. Some of the moving vans that have been leaving Illinois, as residents looked for opportunity elsewhere, may come back, stuffed with the furniture of Texans and North Dakotans fleeing the oil fields.

Times are bound to get tougher in the oil patch. How bad? Prince Alwaleed bin Talal of Saudi Arabia predicted that “we’re never going to see \$100 (per barrel prices) anymore.” (Lately it’s been going for more like \$50.)

Michelle Foss, an energy economist at the University of Texas at Austin, told the Midland Reporter-Telegram: “I think people need to look back to the 1990s, with roughly 17 years of lower oil prices following the 1985 price drop, and consider a similar scenario going forward.”

That’s straight out of an oil executive’s worst nightmare. Those were the days when two-thirds of the rigs in Texas ceased operation. It was when oil-centric Houston had the worst real estate market in the nation, with dozens of “see-through” office buildings—empty structures begging for tenants. The city saw 200,000 jobs vanish.

One joke back then was: “How do you address a petroleum geologist? ‘Waiter!’ ‘When oil prices sunk to \$10 a barrel, bumper stickers said, ‘Dear Lord, please bring back \$40 oil. I promise I won’t screw it up this time.’”

Texas’ state coffers have benefited greatly from taxes on oil and gas production, with that revenue more than doubling over the past decade. Expect it to decline.

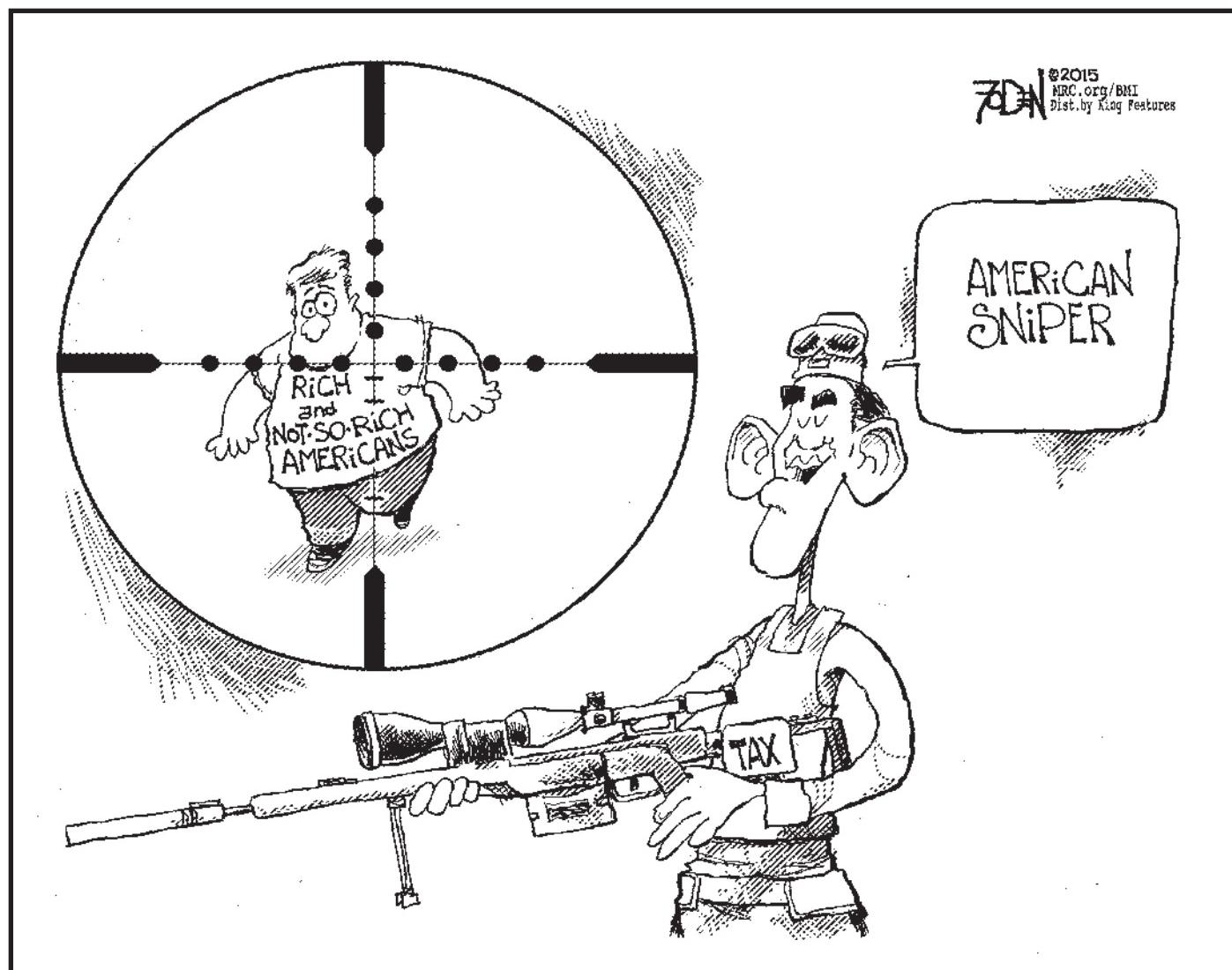
Other states are even more vulnerable to the oil glut because their economies are less diversified than that of Texas, where energy accounts for just 3 percent of all jobs. Most at risk, one study found, are Wyoming, Louisiana, Alaska and North Dakota.

Louisiana had to cut the state budget by \$170 million—and that was when oil was still above \$80 a barrel. Wyoming could see its annual revenue fall by more than \$100 million. As one Wyoming state legislator put it, “We could be entering a rainy season that could be more than a rainy day.”

What is bad for states like those is good for states like Illinois, which has only a little oil production. But we shouldn’t gloat too much. It takes more than an oil bust to make ours a more enticing place for business.

For that matter, the cheaper the gas, the less it costs to load up the truck and move to Dallas or San Antonio. But at least people here are now seeing there was a benefit to missing out on the oil boom: missing out on the bust.

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See WINNERS on Next Page



In the name of awe

Ryan Bell is an ex-Seventh Day Adventist pastor who went godless a year; he found an entity called “god” no longer necessary in his life nor as an explanation of the way life is. “I’d just say that the existence of God seems like an extra layer of complexity that isn’t necessary. The world makes more sense to me as it is, without postulating a divine being who is somehow in charge of things,” he said.

He is called an atheist, a misnomer as he is not against god as he is for the meaninglessness of the use of “god” to define self and explain the nature of existence.

I am reminded of the academic arguments whether Ptolemy was wrong and Copernicus was right, or Newtonian physics to Einstein’s, or in White America vs. BH Obama! These subjects involve different metaphors used at different times, some helpful to some as it is destructive to others.

Today’s metaphors are at war. There are those who pit their picture of reality against those of others. Islam is getting the butt of the negative vibes as the actions of their most radical brothers are ascribed as applicable to all.

The “row” between Harry Potter creator J.K. Rowling and Rupert Murdoch on his comments on the responsibility of all Muslims for the action of its radical elements is instructive. Rowling tweeted back, (hilariously, I think) that, being born Christian, and Rupert Murdoch her responsibility, she’d auto-excommunicate. The “tweet” where knee-jerk actions and responses are the rule was the medium of exchange.

Half of those that saw Murdoch’s comments supported a blanket chastisement of Muslims. I share the position that lumping all Muslims, also, Christians, Hindus, Buddhists, Taoists, Jews, agnostics and atheists, as one, is unhelpful.

Germany’s Cologne Roman Catholic cathedral turned off its traditional lights in protest of an anti-Muslim demonstration that would have benefited from its brightness.

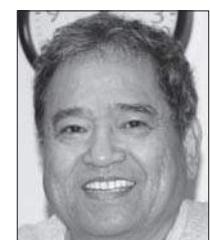
In the French kosher shop where a Muslim gunman summarily executed four Jews, a Muslim worker hid customers in the basement cellar to protect them from assault. Christians in Egypt protected Muslims in prayer by keeping a human chain to cordon the space away from hostile Christians doing the faithful harm.

The attack on the editor and staff of a French magazine that ran a cartoon ridiculing the prophet Mohammed saw vengeance in the raw, lethal and fatal. One is hard put to understand any justification but if one was to decipher the underlying motivation, the French magazine had the right to ridicule a figure solemnly revered to a fault by many within France but reaped consequences of a global net from those whose solemn allegiance had been violated.

A Saipan taxi driver acquaintance was a member of Falun Gong/Falun Dafa that got its start in Dong Bei where I am now (I recently

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime Vergara previously taught at SVES in the CNMI. A peripatetic pedagogue, he last taught in China but makes Honolulu, Shenyang, and Saipan home. He can be reached at pinoypanda2031@aol.com.



got a book from them left on my doorstep which I quickly shredded before it became a political liability; besides, I do not read Hanzi) before it became a scourge on Beijing’s back. He joined knowing US INS indulgence but he traded in methamphetamines, got indicted, and deported a felon.

Downstairs of the FG/FD office was a Shenyang lady I assisted to get out of the “madam” business. The Falun Gong was watch by U.S. officials. The “madam” was pulled in and served time at the Danforth penal facility in Connecticut for human trafficking.

My Chinese wife who nursed a client in the CK building was friend of one of the watchdogs, and not long after she asked for a divorce. I braced myself for this eventuality as a natural consequence of our age difference but she pulled a fast one; she appropriated the role of separation as her purview to call.

The image of FG/FD as a persecuted lot in China serves the not-so-dormant anti-Chinese sentiments of the West. Metaphors hold images that determine our behavior; change the image and we change the behavior.

Such is the function of the word “god.” Before it became a word referring to an external supernatural deity, it was a pious way of describing the experience of the awe and the awesome in our daily existence, expressed in the metaphors of substance before “process” got us the field of energy in physics. Folks shared the same metaphor and gathered as the awed ones (*Ekklesia*, the household of God) and developed rites and rituals to remind them of who they are. Wondered what CK cathedral is about?

Trained in theology, I was schooled when the “god-is-dead” and “religion-less Christianity” notions came to fore. As the word “god” got more meaningless across the planetary religious board, we focused on the “selfie” human wonder of consciousness on the endless, bottomless, and expansive breath of awe in human life.

Quickly, the existential insight was grabbed by academics in the new “awe-ism” trend in spiritual literature, and “awe” is dissected like a frog in the laboratory rather than simply a term to remind us of the limits of what we know of the self we live with so closely and dearly.

Got me 86 years worth of awe. That’s enough for me!

Unestamiente

Inadaya goebetnu biyon pot biyon pesus na fiñkas para adelantun tano'ta. Ha gu'ot attension-ta kondontodu esperansa-ta un' ratu.

Dispues de ta analisa i man-sañgan parehu yan ruplanu gi aire sige lumiliku' ha espipiha i plasa. Ti siña tumunog sa' mampos potput yan atiluñg na trosun mapagahes kumukubre enteru i tanu'. Debi u hanau guatu gi otru lugat.

Gi hilu' este mampos taduñg tipu' dibin iya Marianas. Dispues, atan sa' menos ke \$140 miyon pesus humahalom gi kaha gi sakan. 'An unna' fan daña obligasion kobransa para i Settlement Fund ti u menos ke \$12 biyon pesus para i siguiente dies años na tiempu. Makat na obligasion.

Ti humahalom trabiha obligasion \$27 miyon na dibin CUC, \$27 miyon para apas man-ritirau pa'gu na sakan, \$38 miyon pesus para i hospitat CHC, \$30 miyon para i PSS, yan \$779 miyon pesus na dibi para i Settlement Fund. Kontodu guahu esta hu guiguife na maliñgu mohon este siha na dibi pot para tafan lalibianu kinalamten-ta. Lau obligasion na u fan ma-apase este siha na dibi.

I biyon pesus ni gumugupu gi aire tai plaset. Estague' chathinas-soghu. Para ñgai'an 'nai siña ta konduse halom pot para ta adelanta kinalamten-ta.

Rason? Mofona inapprueban casino ke umasuda'e tanu' yan uma-asegura na kabales fasilitat hanom, kandet, chalan yan paip aplacha' (sewer) maseha manu na lugat 'nai para umahatsa. Iya Magpi taya' nu este siha na fasilitat ni tampoku iya Obyan. Yangin para Garapan pues debi enseñidas uma atan sa' inestotba dañkulu usun hanom yan kandet.

Yangin u fatsu este siha na planu, pues isau-ta sa' mampos hit man-hasupak sin propiu na finotman planu taimanu 'nai siña libre humalom felis este siha na biyon.

Kau siña ta sustene casino?

Siakassu na guaha probleman metkau gi mas man-mikeble na tau-tague ginen nacion siha gi oriya, kau guaha yan nahoñg miyinariu gi entalu' natibu para u katsu kinalamten casino?

Estague' na patte i mampos paska gi tablon 'sino pisun este na industria. Debu u lamegai man-riku para u sinestene kinalamteña. Lau hu huñgog na guaha 15 mit na tautau-ta rumesisibe food stamps. Makat tana' fañaunau i los probes guine na huegu.

I tetehnan gi tautau-ta tat ti hinehegse dibin guma, kareta, insur-

WINNERS

From Page 10

Saudi Arabia should put down the cane

Ablogger in Saudi Arabia who was convicted of insulting Islam and sentenced to 10 years in prison and 1,000 lashes received his first 50 lashes by cane in a public square a little more than a week ago. His second round of lashing, scheduled for last Friday, was postponed after a doctor found that he had yet to heal from the first.

The cruel, retrograde punishment of Raif Badawi has drawn worldwide condemnation, and Amnesty International has deemed him a prisoner of conscience and called for his release. Badawi's "crime" was operating a now defunct blog, the Free Saudi Liberal Network, which fostered political and social debate over Islam and liberalism. Badawi wrote about whether those two concepts were compatible, critiqued the religious police and ran posts by others critical of Saudi institutions. That initially got him jailed and charged in 2012 with apostasy—renunciation of his religion—which is punishable by death in Saudi Arabia. Last year, he was found guilty of the lesser charges of insulting Islam and violating the information technology laws; on appeal, he was sentenced to 10 years in prison and 1,000 lashes.

The right to freedom of expression is not some peculiar American obsession. It is a universal human right, and those who exercise it should neither be killed by terrorists nor imprisoned by their governments. It's especially hypocritical for Saudi officials, who publicly condemned the acts of violence in Paris against the Charlie Hebdo staff, to condone the brutal beating of a citizen for freely expressing his opinions. (Of course, Saudi Arabia wasn't the only country to condemn the events in France despite a poor record on freedom of speech. Egypt, Turkey and Russia all sent officials to the Paris march.)

Not only is Badawi's punishment utterly disproportionate to his crime, but his crime shouldn't even be considered a crime. The Saudis should immediately end all plans to inflict physical torture upon Badawi.

ance hinemu' yan otru siha obligasion familia. Nasuha lokue' este na tropa. Haye sosopbla? Estague' na kuentas ti mali'e ni man-sabu un hegsu' I Deni'.

Taimanu lokue' mali'e na duru dibatde na karera para Hong Kong, Macau yan Manila. Dios mihu tihi tuñgu' na siña mabendenñihon i natibu pot lasan biradan salon. Taiguenau baratuña dignun natibu?

Man-ñahlalañg

Man-masoda' tres membron sanpapa' na guma' man-a'afulu' gi halom komun haye otru biahe para speaker. Dispues ma-ippe' dos kulan lañayon na mañga. Ti mapot i asuntu: Na'eyu' ya bai' fanu'e hamyu taimanu mamatinas satton na disision para benefisiun i linahayan.

■■■

Sige diniskuten problema siha giya Luta. Hu komprende i chinatsagan taya' setbisiun ruplanu yan batku pot materiat mantenion familia.

Debi in' demanda ginen man-ma'gas miyu haf planun niha diberas fuera de gueku na biba ni ti siña in' chile' para i bañku' 'sino tenda.

Cho' chu' i sumen appenas pa'gu. Estague' 'nai gaige primera sensuran kau kapas i in' elihe na tropa pat parehu yan hagas pañg-pañg napu gi kanton tasi. Direchun miyu dumimanda kabales na ineppe ginen siha.

■■■

Siempre Marianas mana' fan asufa' tres na bisnis casino: Dos Timian yan unu Saipan. Haye lagse' siempre u fan rikohe dididi' sinsisyu para apas gaston operasion bisnis. Pa'gu 'an parehu man-mañufa' hit mattiñgan pues na atog patman kanaimu mientras un' kakasas tatten ilun miyu. Hu nanañgga iya Luta para ngai'an 'nai

u tutuhon bisnesña casino pot hu huñgog na paire na industria sa' "globus". Globus pat gurupus? Manu gi dos lai?

■■■

I linala'ta gaige na kada ratu matumbulu mona yan tatte. 'An poduñg 'sino kahulu' presiun laña, un' ratutu ha' sulun pat matmos i apas kandet. Taya' asegurau na pisu. Fitmeña ti asegurau ke ase-gurau. Tiempun tai finagpu' na chukan mona yan tatte. Dios mihu!

■■■

I fotte yan maneñgheñg na guinaifen mañglu' gai tinatte na esta hana' deskalentau hinasoghu. I eku kulan hanana'e hit notisia pot preparasion hinalom un' dañkulu na napu ni para u prensa todú ha soda' gi kareraña halom and huyuñg. Ke pula' hafa este na mensahe sa' na'mañau i mamamailla'.

■■■

Yangin un' gugu'ot pa'gu pisun disposition asuntun linahayan, siempre un' fanna'e kuenta gi uttimu besis. Ti magpu' i huegu gi huramentu. Bai' gaige gi puntan fila numañgga haf para un' esplikaye i linahayan. Taya' pinasensiagh diskuidon man-sabiu.

■■■

I tunas na tautau disposisioña mas oppan gi halom silensiu ke unu ni a'gañ ha faman maisague' gi halom sisonyan linache.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Charlie Hebdo clarification and terrorism

I want to clarify a couple of issues that were brought to my attention given the serious nature of terrorism and our role in fighting these acts. First, I am not concerned with someone complaining about a single typo when everyone else understood what I meant. Secondly, I didn't know the magazine had made fun of Christ but true Christians know not to respond with violence. It should also be noted that they only made fun of Christ once but they continue to flirt with catastrophe by attacking Muslims, their religion, and their founder. I taught my children and students that teasing or making fun of someone once is OK but two or more is antagonizing, ugly, and disrespectful. Freedom of expression does not mean you are free to say and do anything and you must be responsible and accountable. In fact, it is against the law to threaten the President in any way and if you yell "fire" in a movie to cause a panic, you have just committed a felony under federal law. Making fun of Mohammed was not a responsible or respectful act so what did they think would happen with radicals all over the world using any excuse they can to kill. Making fun of Mohammed certainly would not stop the terrorist acts and in fact we now know it escalated their activity driven by Charlie Hebdo's irresponsible and disrespectful behavior toward a deity for the sake of media sensationalism and selling magazines, not fighting terrorism. The magazine did get their big sale of 5 million copies but look at the turmoil and cost in lives spent on them being held accountable.

I also object to the assertion that I am all wrong about Charlie Hebdo as my main concern was about the slandering of supreme religious deities, Christ and Mohammed, and not us "ordinary" people. Where is the line that Charlie Hebdo crossed as the facts illustrate that it was making fun of Mohammed, not Muslims or terrorists. In fact, it is clear the attackers were more concerned with revenge than terror. No one deserves to die for drawing

a cartoon but I'm already hearing comments of people saying, "They asked for it."

Charlie Hebdo should be fighting terrorists and terrorism, not making fun of the Muslim religion if freedom of religion means anything on planet Earth. But now we are witnessing Christians and others in anti-Muslim protests driven by Charlie Hebdo's act when there should be united international protests against terrorism, not against a religion. Why attack a religion and its dead founder when it is people doing the terrorist acts, which is ridiculous to me. But even though I don't support this protest against Muslims and their religion, I do understand the rationale for the protest because the Muslim nation is not doing enough to lead the fight against the use of their religion for terroristic purposes.

I taught my students in conflict with one another that if you don't like Fernando, say you don't like him but not his entire race of people as our youth learn from hearing adults swearing they hate those people—hating an entire race because they don't like one person. Now the same thing is happening on an international scale with religion. Making fun of deities is treading in very dangerous waters given the history of religion and the billions of deaths associated with religious turmoil. We (Muslims and all religions and the media) need to be vigilant and accountable on all fronts in the war against terrorism and fight the good and honorable fight, not make fun of deities just to sell magazines, which is the true lesson to be learned. In closing, I wrote about this because I don't want to see any of this Charlie Hebdo mess spilling over into the CNMI, not to hear nonsense complaints. I rest the world's case against terrorism!

Ambrose M Bennett

Kagman, Saipan

CHC's statement of core values

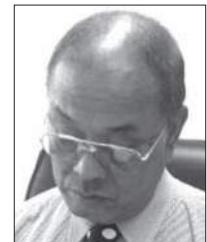
To be or not to be is often referred to as indecision, and this is certainly a common threshold of human nature. The old saying, "If you don't stand for something, you will fall for anything" is becoming too common in how the politics of the day in the NMI confronts controversy. If God places Jesus as its CEO, then the 12 apostles are the board of directors because Jesus could not handle all the Kingdom of God's works by himself. This structural design has worked for more than 2,000 years.

The simplest way to approach the issue whether or not CHC should have a governing board is to ask the CEO to specify, clarify, and declare what is CHC's statement of core values. If we know the list of core values CHC has acknowledged as building blocks for its foundation, we would be able to strike an informed public policy balancing act. If and only if we unambiguously know what CHC has crafted as their core values would we be able to determine whether having a board could be inefficient after all, and the CEO

should have a free range playing field in running this hospital. The questions that will follow should be framed on the theme that this hospital would require a governing board, unless the CEO of this hospital argues a more plausible principle or theory dismissing the idea of a governing board. As a stakeholder, the deal is fair enough, and we as beneficiaries of all public assets should participate as this matter unfolds and makes sense. A lone ranger on this issue has an uphill battle when truism of conventions is easier to buy-in. A statement of core values would tell what the hospital under the command of CHCC stands for as a provider of healthcare for the citizens of the NMI. The statement of core values should not be a work-in-progress assignment, and it should be made available upon request by any elected official in the NMI Legislature.

Francisco R. Agulto

Kannat Tabla, Saipan



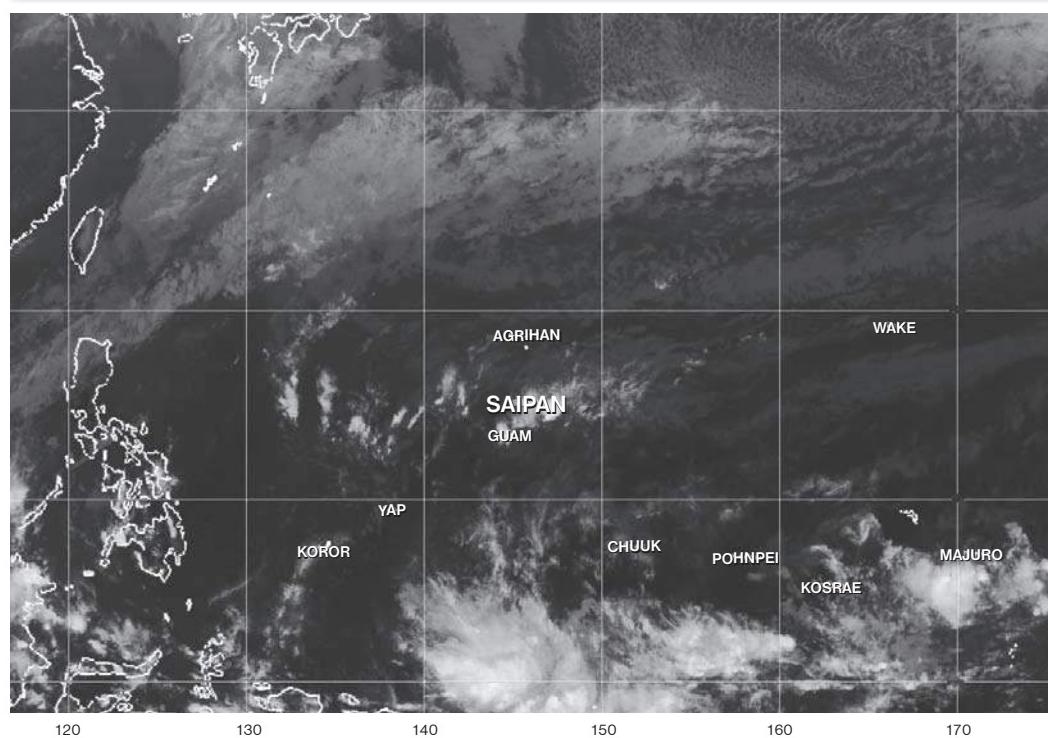
The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Southeast winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Southeast winds 5 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.

Temperatures: **▲86° ▾78°** **▲88° ▾79°** **▲88° ▾79°** **▲88° ▾79°** **▲88° ▾79°**

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21, 2015

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front stretches southwestward from near Midway through 25N180E to southwest of Iwo To Island at 20N138E then continues westward as a warm front to beyond 130E at 20N. Patchy clouds and rain are present along and up to 150 miles northwest of the cold front. Extensive cloudiness and scattered showers are seen along and north of the warm front to beyond 25N. A shear line meanders west-southwestward from south of midway through 19N180E passing near Guam at 13N146E to end northeast of Yap at 13N140E. Scattered showers are occurring along and up to 200 miles north of this boundary including Guam and Rota. A near-equatorial trough stretches east-southeastward from near Mindanao through 6N130E to end at a weak circulation centered south of Kosrae near 1N164E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are found near the trough axis south of Guam, Chuuk and Pohnpei or south of a line from 5N145E to 2N162E. Converging trade winds east of the circulation are causing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms southeast of Kosrae and south of Majuro within 105 miles of a line from 1N165E to 4N172E to 4N180E.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

Micronesia

Guam And Rota	Thundershowers	▲ 85	▼ 77
Palau	Mostly Sunny	▲ 85	▼ 77
Yap	Partly Cloudy	▲ 84	▼ 77
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲ 84	▼ 79
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲ 85	▼ 80
Kosrae	Windy	▲ 83	▼ 79
Majuro	Shower	▲ 83	▼ 80

Tides

Saipan Harbor			
2:50 AM	Today	Low Tide:	-0.6 Feet
9:34 AM	Today	High Tide:	2.1 Feet
3:21 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.9 Feet
7:31 PM	Today	High Tide:	2.1 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:47 AM	6:11 PM
Friday	6:47 AM	6:11 PM
Saturday	6:47 AM	6:12 PM
Sunday	6:47 AM	6:12 PM
Monday	6:47 AM	6:13 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	7:53 AM	7:58 PM
Friday	8:45 AM	8:59 PM
Saturday	9:34 AM	9:58 PM
Sunday	10:22 AM	10:56 PM
Monday	11:09 AM	11:53 PM

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NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF NOVEMBER 12, 2014

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA5070 4:15am 5:05am Daily				UA5069 2:45am 3:35am Daily			
UA5068 8:00am 8:50am 3				UA5071 6:40am 7:30am 3			
UA5068 8:40am 9:30am 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7				UA5071 7:15am 8:05am 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7			
UA5039 2:20pm 4:00pm 6, 7 via Rota				UA5039 1:00pm 1:50pm 6, 7			
UA5078 3:10pm 4:00pm 1, 5				UA5038 1:10pm 2:40pm 2, 4 via Rota			
UA5038 3:10pm 4:00pm 2, 4				UA5077 1:50pm 2:40pm 1, 5			
UA5040 6:55pm 7:45pm 1, 5				UA5041 5:35pm 6:25pm 1, 5			
UA5078 8:35pm 9:25pm 2, 3, 4, 6, 7				UA5077 7:15pm 8:05pm 2, 3, 4, 6, 7			
UA5044 10:40pm 11:30pm 1, 5				UA5043 9:20pm 10:10pm 1, 5			
SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)				GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)			
UA5039 2:20pm 2:55pm 6, 7				UA5038 1:10pm 1:45pm 2, 4			
ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)				ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN			
UA5039 3:25pm 4:00pm 6, 7				UA5038 2:05pm 2:40pm 2, 4			
SAIPAN-PALAU (ROR)				PALAU (ROR)-SAIPAN			
DL287 6:05am 1:05am+1 2, 6 via NRT				DL298 4:30am 3:00pm 3, 7 via NRT			
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL287 6:05am 8:40am 1, 2, 4, 5, 6				DL298 10:25am 3:00pm Daily			
DL297 4:20pm 7:05pm Daily				DL288 8:55pm 1:25am+1 1, 3, 4, 5, 7			
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
OZ606 2:10am 6:00am 1				OZ603 9:00am 2:20pm Daily			
OZ606 2:40am 6:30am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7				7C 3402 10:10am 3:30pm Daily			
OZ604 3:20pm 7:10pm Daily				OZ605 7:40pm 1:10am+1 7			
7C 3401 4:30pm 8:20pm Daily				OZ605 8:10pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6			
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
OZ608 3:10am 6:20am 4, 7				OZ607 9:00pm 1:50am+1 3, 6			
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)				SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8648 6:10am 8:40am 1, 4, 5, 7				3U8647 10:30pm 5:50am+1 3, 4, 6, 7			
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)				BEIJING			



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- Essential Home 3qt. Plastic Coolander \$3.95
- Hampton Forge London Town Frosted 20pc Flatware Set \$22.95
- Essential Home 12pc Trillium Flatware Set \$8.95
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- Sharp Quartz Analog Alarm Clock \$7.95
- Wall Clock With Picture Frame \$15.95
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- Corn Kernel Decorative Throw Pillow \$8.95
- Checkered Throw Pillow \$8.95
- 4pc Sheet Set 2.5x2.5m/2x3m \$49.95

Home & Garden:

- Kenmore 16" Stand Fan \$24.95
- Conair 1875 Pro Styler 2 Heat Speed' Cool Shot Lock Hair Dryer \$21.95
- Kenmore Ironing Board \$29.95
- Proctor Silex Steam Iron \$14.95
- Hefty 66qt Storage Solution \$14.95
- Essential Home 18 Gal. Tote \$9.95
- EH Over-The-Door 18 Pair Shoe Rack \$14.95
- Exquisite 4 Shelf Tension Shower Caddy \$19.95
- Essential Home 36" Clothes Closet \$24.95
- Su Casa 32"x80" Security Door \$159.95
- INFINIFLUX CLASSIC LIGHT DUTY HOSE \$10.95
- Infiniti 50ft Light Duty Hose \$10.95
- Max AP 10x20 Canopy \$179.95
- Homelite 2700 PSI Gas Pressure Washer \$469.95
- Cleanforce 1400PSI Electric Pressure Washer \$159.95
- Homelite 2700 PSI Gas Pressure Washer \$469.95
- Northwest Territory Bungee Chair \$54.95
- Essential Home Earthington 7.5'x9.5' Carnival Area Rug \$69.95
- Northwest Territory Bungee Chair \$54.95
- Weslo Cardio Stride Manual Treadmill \$149.95

Electronics & Gadgets:

- HDX 5-Shelf Storage Unit \$65.95
- EH 3 Tier Storage Shelves \$26.95
- Coleman 52qt Insulated Cooler \$39.95
- Shark Rocket Ultra Light Upright Vacuum \$249.95
- Craftsman Evolv 5gal Wet/Dry Vacuum \$59.95
- Briggs & Stratton 3500watt Portable Generator \$859.95
- Garden Tool Pickaxe \$8.95
- Northwest Territory LED Emergency Crank Light \$19.95
- Prime Outdoor Extension Cord 25' Med. Duty \$9.95
- Garden Tool Rake Head \$4.95
- Krystal Kleer Windshield Washer Fluid \$2.95
- Huffy Vulcan 16" Bike \$109.95
- Everlast 60lb Heavy Punching Bag \$79.95
- Everlast Cardio Stride Manual Treadmill \$149.95

Business

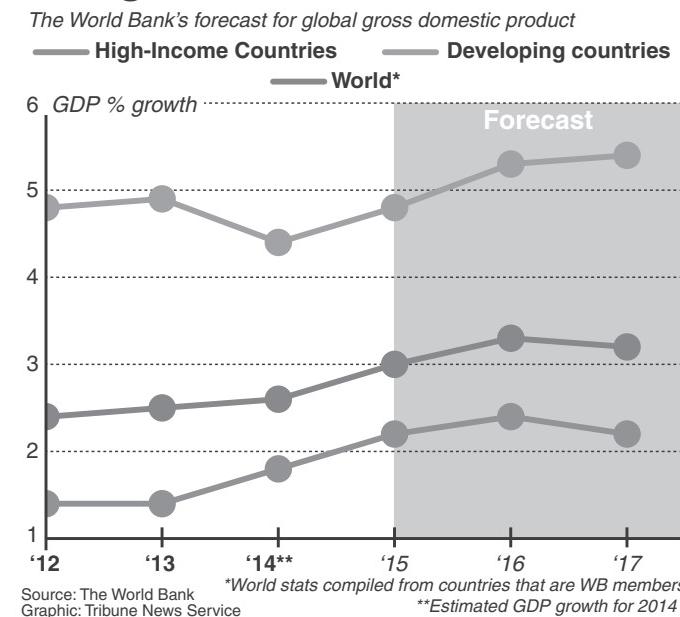
Global economy squeezed by worsening slowdown in China

HONG KONG (AP)—The global economy, slowed by stagnation in Europe and Japan, is being further hampered by China's decelerating growth.

The Chinese economy grew 7.4 percent in 2014, its weakest performance in nearly a quarter-century. And its growth is forecast to slow even more over the next two years.

The figures released Tuesday remain, by just about any measure, impressive. China continues to grow at more than twice the pace of the overall world and about three times as fast as the U.S. economy. Yet its growth rate marks a sharp drop from China's sizzling double-digit expansion in previous years.

GDP growth forecast



Workers walk out from a construction site at the Central Business District of Beijing, China Tuesday, Jan. 20, 2015.

And given its size, China has an outsize effect on the world. China's share of the global economy climbed from 4.5 percent in 2000 to an estimated 11.3 percent last year, according to the World Bank.

"China is the second-largest economy in the world," said Paul Sheard, chief global economist at Standard & Poor's Ratings Services. "So when it slows, the rest of the world is impacted."

On Tuesday, the International Monetary Fund downgraded its forecast for the global economy for this year and next and pointed to China's slowing economy as a key factor. The IMF said China's growth would weaken to 6.8 percent this year and 6.3 percent in 2016. China's slowdown will dent growth in countries it imports from, especially in Asia, the report said.

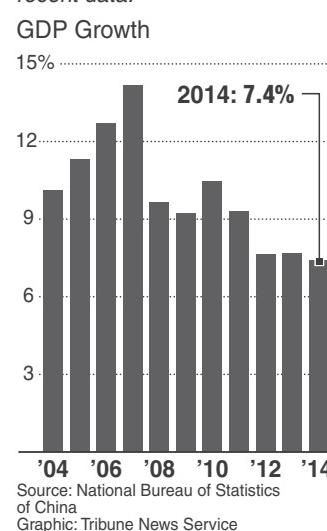
China's 2014 expansion was its slowest since 1990, when growth tumbled to 3.8 percent—a result of economic

sanctions imposed on China after its violent crackdown on the Tiananmen Square protests. Last year's 7.4 percent growth undershot Beijing's target of 7.5 percent, its first miss since 1998, according to analysts.

Economists expect the slowdown to deepen, clouding the

China's GDP

Economic growth slowed in China in 2014, according to recent data.



outlook for the world economy as China transitions away from an era of supercharged but unsustainable growth that fueled demand for everything from Australian iron ore to European luxury goods.

Few think the Chinese slowdown will do much direct damage to the strengthening economy of the United States. The United States is enjoying sustained improvement, with healthy job growth, falling oil prices, rising auto sales, low interest rates and an easing of government cutbacks fueling steady expansion.

The pain will be more intense in countries such as Australia and Malaysia that rely heavily on the Chinese market, said Nariman Behravesh, chief economist at IHS.

"Those most hurt will be the commodity-exporting countries in Africa and Latin America and China's neighbors," Behravesh said.

Chinese businesses are bracing for a more painful year.

Nation

OBAMA IN STATE OF THE UNION: 'Tax wealthy, help middle class'



President Barack Obama gives his State of the Union address before a joint session of Congress on Capitol Hill in Washington, Tuesday, Jan. 20, 2015.

WASHINGTON (AP)—Refusing to bend to the new Republican Congress, President Barack Obama unveiled Tuesday night an ambitious State of the Union agenda steeped in Democratic priorities, including tax increases on the wealthy, education and child care help for the middle class and a torrent of veto threats for the GOP's own plans.

In a shift from tradition, Obama's address to a joint session of Congress was less a laundry list of new proposals and more an attempt to sell a story of a national economy emerging from the "shadow of crisis." He appealed for "better politics" in Washington and pledged to work with Republicans, but he showed few signs of curtailing or tweaking his own plans to meet GOP priorities.

Instead, the president vowed to use his veto pen to strike down the Republican leadership's efforts to dismantle his signature accomplishments, including his health care and financial reform laws.

"We can't put the security of families at risk by taking away their health insurance or unraveling the new rules on Wall Street or refighting past battles on immigration when we've got a system to fix," Obama said in his hour-long address. "And if a bill comes to my desk that tries to do any of these things, I will veto it."

The president sought out

more common ground on foreign policy, pledging to work with Congress on a new authorization for military action against the Islamic State group in Iraq and Syria, as well as legislation to guard against cyberattacks. In

a rare move away from his own party, Obama also renewed his call for fast-tracking free trade agreements with Asia and Europe, generating more applause from pro-trade Republicans than skeptical Democrats.

Obama's address marked the first time in his presidency that he stood before a Republican-controlled Congress. Yet the shift in the political landscape has also been accompanied by a burst of economic growth and hiring, as well as a slight increase in Obama's once-sagging approval ratings—leaving the White House to see little incentive in acquiescing to Republicans.

After ticking through signs of the rising economy, the president turned toward Republicans sitting in the chamber and said with a wink, "This is good news, people."

The centerpiece of Obama's economic proposals marked a shift away from the focus on austerity and deficit reduction that has dominated his fiscal fights with Republicans. In a direct challenge to GOP economic ideology, Obama called for increasing the capital gains rate on couples making more than \$500,000 annually, to 28 percent.

The president's tax plan would also require estates to pay capital gains taxes on securities at the time they're inherited and slap a fee on the roughly 100 U.S. financial firms with assets of more than \$50 billion.

Much of the \$320 billion in new taxes and fees would be used for measures aimed at helping the middle class, including a \$500 tax credit for some families with two

spouses working, expansion of the child care tax credit and a \$60 billion program to make community college free. He also has called for expanding paid leave for workers and moved on his own to lower a mortgage insurance premium rate that could attract new homebuyers.

"Will we accept an economy where only a few of us do spectacularly well?" Obama asked. "Or will we commit ourselves to an economy that generates rising incomes and chances for everyone who makes the effort?"

The president's proposals seemed more about giving his party a platform in the 2016 election than outlining a realistic legislative agenda. Even before the president's address, Republicans were balking at his proposals and painting a far less rosy picture of the economy.

"We see our neighbors agonize over stagnant wages and lost jobs. We see the hurt caused by canceled health care plans and higher monthly insurance bills," said Iowa Sen. Joni Ernst, who delivered the Republican response. "But when we demanded solutions, too often Washington responded with the same stale mindset that led to failed policies like Obamacare. It's a mindset that gave us political talking points, not serious solutions."

With an eye on a swirl of foreign policy challenges, Obama defended his decision to return to military action in Iraq and also authorize airstrikes in Syria. He said Congress could "show the world that we are united in this mission" by passing a new resolution formally authorizing the use of force against the Islamic State group.

Asia

Japan weighs ransom in Islamic State threat to kill two hostages



This image taken from an online video released by the Islamic State group's al-Furqan media arm on Tuesday, Jan. 20, 2015, purports to show the group threatening to kill two Japanese hostages that the militants identify as Kenji Goto, left, and Haruna Yukawa, right, unless a \$200 million ransom is paid within 72 hours.

CAIRO (AP)—The Islamic State group threatened to kill two Japanese hostages within 72 hours, demanding a \$200 million ransom in a video posted online Tuesday that showed a knife-brandishing masked militant standing over the two kneeling captives.

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, who was traveling in the Middle East, vowed to save the men. But with his military only operating in a self-defense capacity at home, Abe faces a hard choice: openly pay the extremists or ask an ally like the United States to attempt a risky rescue inside Syria.

Tuesday's video, released via militant websites associated with the Islamic State group, mirrored other hostage threats the extremists have made. In it, the captives, 47-year-old Kenji Goto and 42-year-old Haruna Yukawa, were shown in orange jump-

suits with a rocky hill in the background, a black-clad militant standing between them. The scene resembles others featuring five hostages previously beheaded by the Islamic State group, which controls a third of Iraq and Syria.

Speaking in English with a British accent, the militant demanded \$200 million for the men's release and appeared to link the ransom to a pledge Abe made Saturday of nonmilitary aid to help the government of Iraq and to assist Syrian refugees who have fled the Islamic State's brutality.

"To the prime minister of Japan ... you willingly have volunteered to take part in this crusade," said the masked man, who looked and sounded like the militant shown in other filmed beheadings.

"And to the Japanese public: Just as your government has made the foolish decision to pay

\$200 million to fight the Islamic State, you now have 72 hours to pressure your government in making a wise decision, by paying the \$200 million to save the lives of your citizens," he said.

"Otherwise, this knife will become your nightmare."

Japanese officials said they would analyze the video to verify its authenticity, though Abe offered no hesitation as he pledged to free the men.

"Their lives are the top priority," the Japanese leader told journalists in Jerusalem as he wrapped up a six-day visit to the Middle East. "Extremism and Islam are completely different things."

Abe and others in his government declined to say whether they would pay a ransom, though Abe dispatched his deputy foreign minister, Yasuhiko Nakayama, to Jordan to seek the country's support in resolving the hostage crisis.

'AirAsia plane climbed too fast, then disappeared'

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—An AirAsia plane that crashed last month with 162 people on board was climbing at an abnormally high rate, then plunged and suddenly disappeared from radar, Indonesia's transport minister said Tuesday.

Ignatius Jonan told Parliament that radar data showed the Airbus A320 was climbing at about 6,000 feet a minute before it disappeared on Dec. 28.

"It is not normal to climb like that, it's very rare for commercial planes, which normally climb just 1,000 to 2,000 feet per minute," he said. "It can only be done by a fighter jet."

He said the plane then plunged toward the sea and disappeared from radar.

Jonan did not say what caused the plane to climb so rapidly.

In their last contact with air-traffic controllers, the pilots of AirAsia Flight 8501 asked

to climb from 32,000 feet to 38,000 feet to avoid threatening clouds, but were denied permission because of heavy air traffic. Four minutes later, the plane disappeared. No distress signal was received.

An excessively rapid ascent is likely to cause an airplane to go into an aerodynamic stall. In 2009, an Air France Airbus A330 disappeared over the Atlantic Ocean in bad weather while flying from Rio de Janeiro to Paris. Investigators were able to determine from the jet's "black boxes" that it began a steep climb and then went into a stall from which the pilots were unable to recover.

The plane was en route from Surabaya, Indonesia's second-largest city, to Singapore.

Only 53 bodies have been recovered so far. Rough sea conditions have repeatedly prevented divers from reaching the wreckage.

World

4 men in Paris court are first to face terror attacks charges

PARIS (AP)—French anti-terror prosecutors sought Tuesday to charge four men in connection with the attacks in Paris that left 20 people dead, which would be the first suspects charged in the country's bloodiest terrorist attacks in decades.

The four men awaited an anti-terror judge's decision early Wednesday on whether to open preliminary investigations against them.

The possible charges were expected just hours before the French government was to unveil new measures aimed at helping head off future attacks, giving police more power to tap phones, monitor Web sites and force Internet companies to block messages of hate posted online.

Prime minister Manuel Valls will present new security measures Wednesday

that will include efforts to increase intelligence-gathering against jihadis and other radicals, block their activities on the Internet, and prevent them from collaborating inside prisons or traveling abroad to fight, President Francois Hollande said.

France is on high security alert after the country's worst terrorist attacks in decades. The court case and the arrests came as Valls urged his nation to do some soul-searching about the country's deep ethnic divisions and declared that fighting hatred, anti-Semitism and racism was a top priority, especially in France's impoverished housing projects.

The Paris prosecutor's office said the four men in court Tuesday were suspected of providing logistical support to Amedy Coulibaly, one of

the terrorists killed by police, and requested they be detained longer on weapons and terrorism charges.

Coulibaly shot a police-woman to death on the outskirts of Paris and then killed four hostages inside a kosher supermarket before being shot dead by police. It is not clear whether the four suspects, all in their 20s, were involved in plotting the attacks or even aware of Coulibaly's plans.

Five others arrested in the investigation were released without charge, prosecutors said.

No one has been charged with direct involvement in the Jan. 7-9 Paris terror attacks. Coulibaly claimed allegiance to the Islamic State group while the two brothers who attacked the Charlie Hebdo satirical weekly said they were backed by al-Qaida in Yemen.

Man who saved lives at Paris grocery gets citizenship

PARIS (AP)—French authorities on Tuesday honored a Mali-born employee who saved lives at the kosher supermarket attacked by terrorists as a hero and granted him French citizenship.

Interior Minister Bernard Cazeneuve praised Muslim Lassana Bathily, 24, for his "courage" and "heroism" during a ceremony in the presence of Prime Minister Manuel Valls.



Bathily

Cazeneuve said Bathily's "act of humanity has become a symbol of an Islam of peace and tolerance."

"Tonight I'm very proud and deeply touched," Bathily said with tears in his eyes, humbly stressing that he doesn't consider himself a hero. "I am Lassana. I'll stay true to myself."

"People are all equal to me and skin color isn't a matter. France is the country of human rights," he added.

Bathily was in the store's underground stockroom when gunman Amedy Coulibaly burst in upstairs on January 9 and killed four people. He turned off the stockroom's freezer and hid a group of shoppers inside before sneaking out through a fire escape to speak to police and help them with their operation to free the 15 hostages and kill the attacker.

Bathily has lived in France since 2006. He had filed an application for French citizenship last year.

WORLD BRIEFS

Supporters doubt Argentine prosecutor killed self

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (AP)—The ex-wife of a prosecutor who accused Argentine President Cristina Fernandez of protecting the masterminds of a 1994 bombing does not believe an initial finding that he killed himself on the eve of his testimony before congress. While acknowledging that investigators need time to examine the facts, Judge Sandra Arroyo was clear in answering reporters who asked Tuesday whether her ex-husband's death was a suicide. "No," she said. The 51-year-old Nisman was found in the bathroom of his locked apartment early Monday, a bullet wound on the right side of his head and, next to his body, a .22 caliber handgun and a single bullet casing, authorities said.

Shelling in eastern Ukraine kills at least 6 civilians

DONETSK, Ukraine (AP)—Shelling in the eastern Ukrainian region of Donetsk killed at least six civilians Tuesday, as fighting intensified between government and rebel forces. AP reporters saw the bodies of two people who were killed while waiting for a bus in the separatist-held city of Donetsk. Separatist authorities said another person died from an attack elsewhere in

the city. Regional authorities loyal to the government said six people in total, including the three counted in Donetsk, had died throughout the day. Fighting spiked over the weekend in the bitter battle for control over Donetsk's now-shattered airport. The level of artillery exchanges has abated since that peak.

UN: Iran honors pledge to temporarily freeze nuke program

VIENNA (AP)—Iran is honoring its commitment not to expand atomic activities that could be used to make weapons while it negotiates with six world powers on a lasting nuclear deal, according to a confidential U.N. report released Tuesday. Obtained by The Associated Press shortly after it was posted on the internal website of the U.N.'s International Atomic Energy Agency, the report could be used by the White House to argue that Iran is negotiating seriously. The U.S. administration is pushing back against the threat of new sanctions on the Islamic Republic being floated by a bipartisan group of U.S. senators, with President Barack Obama warning that could scuttle the talks. Negotiators seek a framework agreement by March, followed by a comprehensive deal in June putting long-term constraints on Iran's ability to make nuclear arms in exchange for sanctions relief.

Focus

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Everywhere Jay Westbrook turns, behind the wheel of his black pickup, a memory flashes.

In Van Nuys, it is the lifeless little girl he held at Valley Presbyterian Hospital after she was found in the bottom of a hot tub. Near Beverly Hills, it is the old woman in a seven-figure condo whose misery he tried to soothe. On Skid Row, it is the 29-year-old crack addict he brought morphine to numb the pain of cancer, as she died in a box on the street.

There have been thousands of them, thousands of souls he journeyed with to the intersection of living and dying, who helped establish him as one of the foremost experts on care in a patient's final days. Thousands of deaths that collectively formed his life.

It might have gone on this way forever. Then came one death too many.

The first time was a cluster of machines and tubes, and breaths shallow and panting. Westbrook was a student nurse, the patient a big man, swollen from cirrhosis. Westbrook had cared for the man for several weeks and when the time finally came, a profound sadness drove him to tears.

He felt powerless and mortal; and for the first time, this son of atheist parents felt something more.

"I had that experience of the place where life and death meet being filled with God," he said.

In the two decades that followed, Westbrook experienced more deaths than he could count—as a cancer nurse, in pain management and, most of all, in hospice.

He heard a little boy confess to his dying mother he once stole from her wallet, and a married Orthodox Jew acknowledge a long affair with a man. He saw athletes and movie stars, deaths surrounded by dozens and deaths all alone.

Each one was both singular and similar. Those who survived a brush with death reported traveling down a tunnel toward a bright light. Those whose age or disease brought a more gradual exit often experienced visions of a loved one who went before, as well as a day of seemingly stunning turnaround, where lucidity returned and pain subsided and all, for a short time, seemed well. It could be a cruel tease to those praying for a miracle, as it was generally followed by clues the end was near: mottled skin, cold extremities, and breathing that sounds like a locomotive leaving the station.

Through it all, he was sustained by love.

They met on June 7, 1968, at a party bidding Westbrook farewell before he was to leave California to teach reading in Appalachia. Two young women arrived dragging an unenthusiastic third.

her up, and she put her head on his chest.

"I love you," she said, emphatically.

Before long, her skin became mottled, her extremities cold, her breathing strained. He knew the end was near and, though they didn't speak of it, he suspects she did, too. She wanted to stay outside in her beloved garden. And late into the night, they sat. She kept resisting going in to bed, but when they finally did, Nancy mustered her last words.

"I love you," she said again. "Goodnight."

By morning, she had lost consciousness. He took her in his arms.

"Sweetheart, I love you so much, I will miss you so much when you're gone, but I'll be OK," he said. "And if and when you're ready, you have my permission to go."

Ninety seconds later, it was over.

And now, Westbrook knew, his career was too.

Westbrook is behind the wheel of his Dodge, zooming south to the Hollywood Hills.

It has been nearly two years since he buried Nancy. He hasn't attended to another patient since.

He speaks of her in the present tense. He speaks of his career in the past.

"I've lost my life and I've lost my work," he said.

So many of his patients died with such certainty on where they were going next, but all these years of death brought him no closer to knowing whether he'll ever see Nancy again. He dreams of a blissful reunion. Even if it never happens and he carries this pain forever, he's grateful for what he once had.

"Small price to pay," he said, "for a lifetime love affair."

He has begun to counsel couples and advises on grief and pain relief. But he will not go to a dying patient's bedside.

He worries he would be more guarded, no longer giving his whole self to patients because he is immersed in grief. He wonders what it would be like to return home from a day filled with death and no longer have Nancy to turn to. He always saw his vulnerability as an asset; now he thinks it is a liability.

It was a Monday—Dec. 12, 2011—when Nancy first awoke in pain. On Wednesday, she saw the doctor. On Thursday, she had a CT scan. On Monday, she had surgery. And on Tuesday, the diagnosis came: pancreatic cancer.

The doctors said she likely had four months to live with no intervention, up to a year with aggressive chemotherapy. Westbrook had had hundreds of pancreatic cancer patients before and expected she had seven months. Four days shy of that, she awoke feeling great, free from pain and full of energy—the cruel pre-death rally he'd seen so many times before. In the yard, she asked him to lift

He drives and the memories surround him. He thinks of the young mother whose children watched in horror as she struggled with her final breaths. He thinks of an elderly man who, even as he died, could not forget the stillborn daughter his wife delivered 60 years before.

And he thinks of Nancy, the last ghost in a life filled with them. He smiles as he drives away.

For hospice nurse, wife's death was one too many

By MATT SEDENSKY

Associated Press



In this Wednesday, Feb. 19, 2014 photo, Jay Westbrook, clinical director of Compassionate Journey, stands in his backyard in Los Angeles. It has been nearly two years since he buried his wife, Nancy, beneath a pear tree with pink flowers. He hasn't attended to another patient since. He carries the same picture of her in his wallet and keeps the same greeting on their voicemail. He speaks of her in the present tense. He speaks of his career in the past.

"Nancy, this is Jay," the host said. "Jay, this is Nancy."

She wanted to take a walk on the beach, and Westbrook accompanied her. They took the footbridge over the Pacific Coast Highway, walking and talking for hours and coming to rest on the sand.

"Six hours later, the sun came up and we were in love," Westbrook said.

He never went to Appalachia. He was smitten. Before long, Nancy Morgan was Nancy Westbrook. They lived modestly but joyfully.

They couldn't have come from more different upbringings. She grew up in an Ozzie-and-Harriet family, surrounded by love and support, in Wichita, Kansas.

As Westbrook tells it, his own mother left when he was an infant, and when his father remarried two years later, he was placed in the care of family friends who abused him. His parents eventually reclaimed him, but he says he was still

subjected to his stepmother's explosive anger and incest by his grandfather. He ultimately dropped out of high school and ran away. Later, addicted to drugs and alcohol, he spent time in prison, sinking so low he hatched a suicide plan.

He is 67 now, but the scars of childhood remain so deep he still sleeps with a nightlight to ward off a lasting fear of the dark. They helped stir in Westbrook a strain of empathy so strong he became irreplaceable at the worst moment in others' lives.

"My suffering," he said, "became my vehicle for awakening compassion in me."

He first put his soothing power to work as a veterinary technician, offering solace to owners when a pet was euthanized or a tough prognosis was delivered.

He then became a clinical gerontologist; in that role he constantly glimpsed death, and felt a nagging need to get closer.

A nursing degree brought

him where he wanted to be. He became a luminary of the end-of-life world, not just because of his skill, but because he told the stories of his work with such eloquence it enthralled audiences, from medical students in a Harvard lecture hall to hospice workers filling a conference room.

Colleagues were in awe of his ability to say the right thing, manage patients' pain and forecast their remaining time with striking precision.

"All heart," said Mary Jo Leste, a nurse who once hired him. "He has a gift," said Carmen Febo, a hospice worker he mentored. "A pioneer," said Chris Downey, a doctor who attended a palliative program with him.

It was deeply fulfilling, but draining work. Nancy not only helped her husband deal with the depths of his past, but also the daily trials of death. Sometimes, when he arrived home from a tough day, he'd put his head on her chest and listen to her heart beat. They'd play with

the dogs, talk about their days, discuss lessons learned from the dying.

Time and again, he saw a deathbed full of regrets. It taught him and Nancy to never part without an embrace and an expression of love. Tomorrow, he knew, was not guaranteed.

It was a Monday—Dec. 12, 2011—when Nancy first awoke in pain. On Wednesday, she saw the doctor. On Thursday, she had a CT scan. On Monday, she had surgery. And on Tuesday, the diagnosis came: pancreatic cancer.

The doctors said she likely had four months to live with no intervention, up to a year with aggressive chemotherapy. Westbrook had had hundreds of pancreatic cancer patients before and expected she had seven months.

Four days shy of that, she awoke feeling great, free from pain and full of energy—the cruel pre-death rally he'd seen so many times before. In the yard, she asked him to lift

Environment

2014 was warmest year ever measured, confirming trend

By GEOFFREY MOHAN
LOS ANGELES TIMES

The average surface temperature on Earth was higher in 2014 than at any time since scientists began taking detailed measurements 135 years ago.

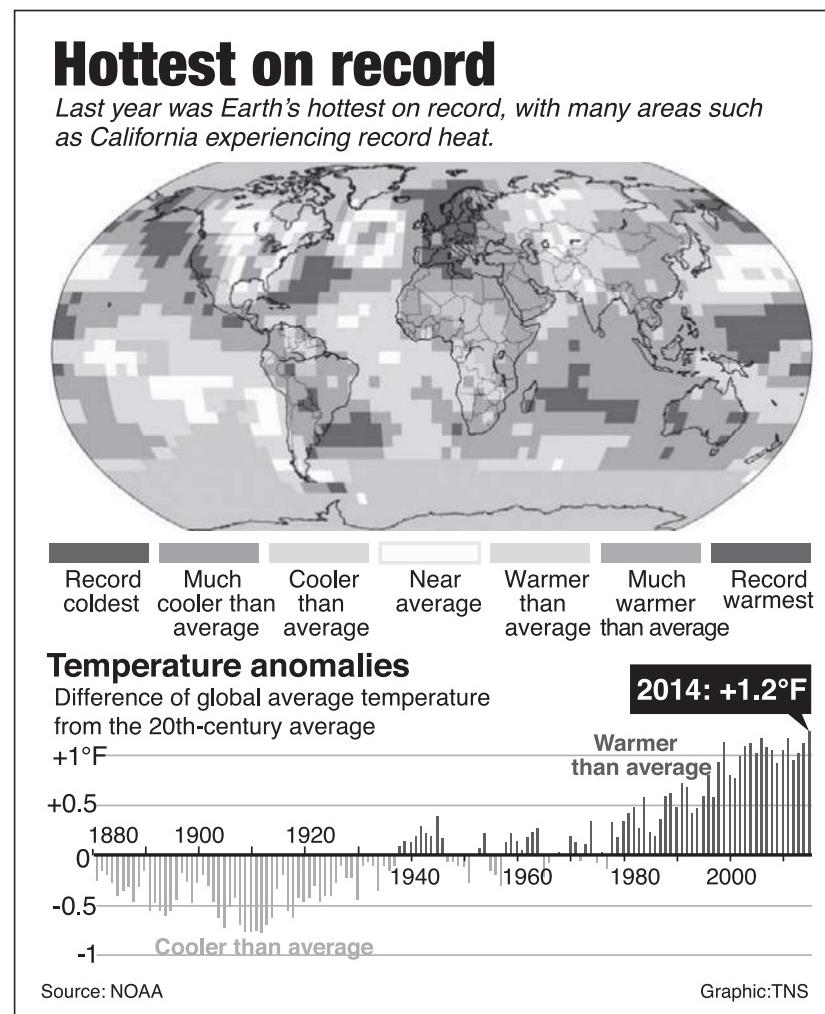
The 1.4-degree Fahrenheit rise since 1880 confirms long-term warming patterns and renewed alarm about changes that could flood coasts, provoke more severe storms and dry out croplands around the globe, climate experts at NASA and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration said Friday.

Scientists at the two agencies relied on data collected by 6,300 land-based weather stations around the world, from research stations in Antarctica and from a network of ships and satellite-communicating buoys that dot the oceans. Experts at NOAA determined that Earth's average surface temperature in 2014 was 1.24 degrees above the 20th century average of 57 degrees Fahrenheit. A related analysis from NASA scientists also confirmed a record increase above a base line period between 1951 and 1980.

In a particularly ominous sign, 2014 marked the first time in 25 years that a global surface temperature record was set without a strong warming influence from the Pacific Ocean current oscillation known as El Nino.

December "sealed the deal" by setting a new record as the warmest month ever measured, NOAA reported. May, June, August and September set new records for monthly highs, and October tied a previous high, NOAA said.

The data add to a recent string of record warmth planet-wide. Nine of



the 10 warmest years on record have occurred since 2002, according to NOAA. (The other top 10 year was 1998, which ranks fourth in the record books due in part to a particularly strong El Nino phase.)

The warming trend can be explained only by including the effects of human activity, including the burning of fossil

fuels that add heat-trapping greenhouse gases to Earth's atmosphere, agency scientists said.

"Greenhouse gas trends are responsible for the majority of the trend that we see," said Gavin Schmidt, director of NASA's Goddard Institute for Space Studies in New York. Because such emissions continue to rise, Schmidt

added, "we may anticipate further record highs in the years to come."

Although land surface temperature ranked fourth in the record books, record temperatures in every ocean basin drove the global average to new heights. Ocean water retains heat longer, and heat-driven expansion contributes to sea level rise.

"This was very clearly the warmest year in the ocean records," Schmidt said. "It wasn't quite the warmest year in the land records, but combined, this did actually give the warmest year" since scientists began tracking global surface temperatures in 1880.

The warming also came despite a decidedly colder U.S. winter driven by a "polar vortex," according to the agencies. That cold anomaly was overwhelmed by many other abnormally hot periods elsewhere throughout the year, including searing heat that worsened the ongoing drought in the Western U.S. and wilting heat spells in Europe and Australia.

Areas of unusual warmth also included Russia's vast Siberia region and Alaska—temperatures in Anchorage did not dip below zero degrees last year, another first.

Meanwhile, Antarctic sea ice extent hit record highs in 2014, "which is a little surprising given the warmth on the rest of the planet," he said.

Antarctic sea ice extent is not as closely linked to surface temperature trends, and is influenced by many local factors, including winds linked to the hole in the ozone layer and additional fresh water from melting land ice sheets, Schmidt said.

Skeptics often point to record-setting temperatures in 1998 to argue that

global warming has abated. But agency officials said the new data show the long-term trend has been a steady rise since the 1970s.

"2014 is exactly where we would've expected, before 1998," said Schmidt. "There are going to be periods when short-term trends go up and go down—that's just the nature of the beast. But there's no evidence that the long-term trend is much different from what it has been."

Tim Barnett, a marine physicist with the Scripps Institution of Oceanography at the University of California, San Diego, said it was time to lay to rest any speculation of a warming "hiatus" since the late 1990s.

"You have to interpret what you're seeing over the long haul," he said. "You have to look at a couple of decades at least before you begin to see that things have changed."

Until last year, the warmest years were 2005 and 2010. The global average for 2014 edged those years by 0.07 degrees Fahrenheit, government scientists said.

Overall, the global annual temperature increased at an average rate of 0.11 degrees Fahrenheit per decade between 1880 and 1970. Since then, it has increased by 0.28 degrees Fahrenheit per decade, NOAA data show.

In the U.S., all-time records for warmth were set in California, Alaska, Nevada and New Mexico, even as most of the Midwest and East Coast experienced temperatures far lower than normal, NOAA said. The annual average for the 48 contiguous states was a half-degree above the area's 20th century average of 52.6 degrees—barely enough to break into the top 35 warmest years.

San Francisco Bay: Number of dead birds climbs to 100; 300 rescued

By DENIS CUFF
CONTRA COSTA TIMES

WALNUT CREEK, Calif.—The environmental toll from the mystery goo in San Francisco Bay climbed Tuesday to 100 dead seabirds and 300 that were saved as wildlife officials tried to zero in on identifying the toxic stuff and who may have spilled it.

The death count doubled from the previous day while volunteers continued to comb the shoreline Tuesday.

The 50 birds rescued Tuesday was 20 percent higher than the previous day—an indication that odds of finding coated birds still alive is waning.

The sticky goop, which has not yet been identified, is preventing seabirds from flying and keeping themselves warm, leaving them vulnerable to freezing.

"Every day that goes by makes it harder for them to survive hypothermia," said Andrew Hughan, a spokesman for the California Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Coated birds have been found along the shoreline near the San Leandro marina, the Hayward Regional Shoreline and parts of Alameda.

Hughan said state wildlife workers hope to soon identify the material by analyzing the substance in a lab and performing necropsies on the birds. Petroleum, however, has been ruled out.



A surf scoter is washed as efforts to clean shorebirds of a mysterious substance continue at International Bird Rescue in Fairfield, Calif., on Monday, Jan. 19, 2015.

"The labs are going full-bore" after being closed for the long holiday weekend, Hughan said. "We hope for the results soon, but you can't rush science."

If the responsible party is identified, state officials and perhaps other branches of government would con-



BAY AREA NEWS GROUP/TNS

sider criminal fines and civil penalties if the material was illegally dumped.

The penalty for polluting the bay varies with the volume spilled and its effect. Owners of the cargo ship Cosco Busan paid \$44 million in damages and cleanup costs for a 53,000-gallon bunker oil spill in 2007 that killed an

estimated 6,849 birds and fouled miles of shoreline.

Rescue center workers have suggested a polymer used in ship's fuel is a possible culprit, but the state officials say it's premature to speculate.

Meanwhile, volunteers from the International Bird Rescue Center in

Fairfield continued walking along the shoreline Tuesday in search of dead or ailing ducks and other seabirds.

Mark Russell, a center wildlife biologist, said it has become harder to find coated birds still alive and many have died.

There also were fewer volunteers available Tuesday to look for ailing birds because many had to return to jobs after the long holiday weekend, Russell said. Eight volunteers were in the field Tuesday morning.

State fish and wildlife workers responded to the goo Friday and Saturday, but devoted fewer resources when it was determined the material was not an oil spill, which would have automatically triggered funding for cleanup and rescue.

"The rescue is falling mainly to the center and its volunteers," Russell said.

Hughan confirmed there are less government resources for the search and rescue because the goo is not oil.

Complicating the effort, volunteers need to be trained because untrained searchers can harm coated birds or drive them back into the water where they cannot be helped, he said.

On Tuesday, volunteers were checking out a report of a few birds acting abnormally near the Foster City shoreline, but there was no confirmation they were victims of the goo, state officials and volunteer rescue workers said.

Life & Style

'Sniper' success reveals power of conservative audience

NEW YORK (AP)—Empty seats were hard to come by at Clint Eastwood's "American Sniper" over the holiday weekend, where the R-rated Iraq War drama—all words seldom attached to "blockbuster"—rolled to the kind of runaway success that makes Hollywood sit up and take notice.

The film, which blew away box-office expectations with a superhero-sized \$107 million over the four-day weekend, was in many ways an old-fashioned kind of Hollywood hit: It was built on star-power (Bradley Cooper and Eastwood), Oscar buzz (6 nominations including best picture) and a largely adult audience (63 percent over 25 years old).

The success has made the latest film from the 84-year-old director—his second in half a year—a flashpoint in Hollywood, Washington D.C. and everywhere in between, sweeping "American Sniper" into the culture wars Eastwood has sometimes engaged.

Certainly, the huge wide-release opening wouldn't have been possible without the strong support of a seldom-catered-to demographic: conservatives. Dan Fellman, head of domestic distribution for Warner Bros., called conservatives' embrace of the film "huge," noting it's an audience difficult to court.



AP

In this image released by Warner Bros. Pictures, Bradley Cooper appears in a scene from "American Sniper."

"The audience watched this movie not as a war movie but as a movie about patriotism, a movie about a hero, a movie about family, a movie about serving our country," said Fellman. "And it struck a chord right across the board."

Most Hollywood heartland hits (like the recent "Unbroken," or one of films "American Sniper" surpassed to become the biggest R-rated drama debut, "The Last Temptation of the Christ") have capitalized on faith-based audiences. But

"American Sniper," about Navy SEAL marksman Chris Kyle, is the kind of heroic war film Hollywood has largely resisted in depicting the often unpopular and less successful campaigns in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Gitesh Pandya, editor of

BoxOfficeGuru.com, credited the film's triumph to a "perfect storm" of factors, including the savvy marketing of Warner Bros., which stoked interest in the film by holding it in very limited release for two weeks.

"It was always expected to

have a large conservative base come out for this film, as most military dramas do," said Pandya. "But you can't sell a movie to only a conservative audience and reach \$107 million in a four-day weekend. You're reaching everybody with those kind of numbers."

Eastwood has held that "American Sniper" is an apolitical character study about Kyle, who with 160 confirmed kills, is considered the most lethal sniper in U.S. military history. He was tragically killed at a shooting range in 2013 by a veteran he was helping adjust to life at home.

But the celebration of an elite killer who called his Iraqi foes "savages" has spawned a growing storm of criticism. Seth Rogen compared the movie to Nazi propaganda before adding that he liked it on Twitter. Documentarian Michael Moore sparked more uproar when he tweeted unrelatedly about snipers not being heroes, before adding that he thought Eastwood confused Iraq for Vietnam.

In the New Republic, Dennis Jett wrote that single-mindedly treating Kyle as a patriot "allows Americans to ignore the consequences of invading a country that had no weapons of mass destruction, had nothing to do with 9/11, and had no meaningful ties to Al Qaeda."

Netflix reels in 4.3M more subscribers in Q4

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Coming off its best quarter yet, Netflix is accelerating its international expansion in hopes its original programming will hook millions more subscribers on the Internet video service.

Netflix Inc. added 13 million worldwide subscribers last year, including 4.3 million during the final three months, according to figures released Tuesday in the company's fourth-quarter earnings report. It marked Netflix's biggest quarter of subscriber gains ever, eclipsing the 4.07 million added in the final three months of 2013.

Earnings also rose to a new quarterly high of \$83.4 million, or \$1.35 per share, a 72 percent increase from the same time last year. The latest quarter included a one-time gain of \$39 million from the resolution of a tax audit.

The performance drew rave reviews from investors as Netflix's stock surged \$55.35, or nearly 16 percent, to \$404.15 in extended trading. The shares still remain well below their record high of \$489.29 reached four months ago.

Encouraged by the popularity of Netflix's original programs in overseas markets, CEO Reed Hastings now expects to complete the company's international expansion by 2017 while remaining profitable. The Los Gatos, California, company plans to borrow \$1 billion to help finance its push outside the U.S., including a potential entrance into China.

"It's going to be a very exciting

couple years," Hastings promised in a Tuesday interview.

Netflix also is pouring more money into original programming in an effort to maintain its leadership in long-form Internet video amid intensifying competition from imposing rivals such as Google Inc.'s YouTube, Amazon.com and Time Warner Inc.'s HBO.

The on-demand convenience of online video streaming has become so popular that HBO, a 42-year-old cable channel, will start selling a separate Internet-only subscription later this year to connect with the steadily expanding audience spurning traditional pay-TV packages. Meanwhile, YouTube has been amassing more professionally produced content to supplement its wide array of amateur videos, while Amazon.com plans to finance about a dozen full-length films for its \$99-a-year Prime service, which also includes free shipping and music streaming for its e-commerce customers.

Netflix's emphasis on more distinctive shows, launched two years ago with the debut of the award-winning series "House of Cards," has reeled in more viewers while trimming profits because of higher licensing costs. To help pay the bills, Netflix raised its prices last May by \$1 a month, to \$9, in a move that the company initially blamed for disappointing subscriber growth last summer.

Hastings now believes last summer's lackluster growth had more to do with nar-

rowing opportunities to expand in the U.S. now that Netflix already is in so many domestic households.

The service ended December with 39.1 million subscribers in the U.S., accounting for more than two-thirds of Netflix's customers spread across about 50 countries. Hastings believes Netflix eventually can attract as many as 90 million U.S. subscribers, though it will take nearly a decade to reach the goal, based on the company's current rate of domestic growth.

Netflix is anticipating an additional 4 million global subscribers during the first three months of this year, boosted by the Feb. 27 return of "House of Cards." The period also will feature the March 6 debut of "The Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt," a new series produced by comedian and writer Tina Fey, as well as new drama called "Bloodline," to be released March 20.

More than 20 other Netflix originals encompassing 320 total hours are scheduled to be released this year, including the third season of another acclaimed TV series, "Orange Is The New Black" and a movie sequel to "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Tiger."

Netflix is about to begin streaming "The Interview," a comedy that wasn't released in major theater chains last month because of terrorism threats. The Sony Pictures film starring Seth Rogen and James Franco will be available on Netflix in the U.S. and Canada beginning Saturday.

BEIJING (AP)—A New Yorker journalist famed for his reporting from China wrote that the state-run newspaper China Daily faked an editorial under his byline after interviewing him.

Peter Hessler said on Facebook on Tuesday that he didn't write the piece posted on China Daily's website a day earlier titled "US observer: Comparing Egypt with China" and that his words were taken out of context.

Hessler wrote that the China Daily reporter asked him to compare China with Egypt. Hessler formerly was based in China but now reports from Egypt.

The resulting editorial repeats Communist Party talking points, lauding China's stability and education system while counseling that any changes in China are "likely to be subtle, incremental, and coming from the top."

After living in Egypt, the editorial reads, "I think I have a better understanding of how essentially stable the Chinese system is."

The article continues: "It reminds me that in China, even in a tiny village, there was a great deal of government activity. The villagers were very clearly con-

nected to the larger political systems and issues of the country."

Hessler, however, wrote on Facebook that he was asked mainly about his reflections on the past year and that the piece misrepresented his larger points.

"It omitted crucial parts, including the most important point: that I believe it's harder to make a political change in China, where the system is deeper rooted than in Egypt, and thus the flaws are also more deeply rooted," Hessler wrote. "I said that this is the reason why the current anti-corruption campaign will be a failure, because China is not addressing its systemic flaws."

A China Daily editor said Wednesday she didn't have details about the dispute but would make inquiries.

The newspaper removed the online piece in English, but it remains available in state media in Chinese. On Facebook, Hessler wrote he asked the China Daily for a retraction but the paper refused.

Having worked in China for about a decade until 2007, Hessler wrote extensively about the country, producing four popular books about his experiences there.

Tourists get knockout photo of Stallone atop 'Rocky' steps

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—A group of tourists who ran up the "Rocky" steps in Philadelphia got a knockout photo at the top—a selfie with Rocky himself.

Peter Rowe said he and two friends had just finished racing up the staircase at the Philadelphia Museum of Art on Saturday when they saw Sylvester Stallone.

"He said to us, 'Man, you guys are fast. You're making me look bad!'" Rowe said on Tuesday.

Stallone then posed for a selfie with the trio, putting up one fist.

"Look tough, guys!" he said, according to Rowe.

Stallone made the art museum's steps famous in his first turn as fictional boxer Rocky Balboa, who used them as part of his training regimen. Thousands of people now visit the steps each year to re-create the run and to take pictures with a Rocky statue, which originally was a prop in "Rocky III."

Rowe's friends, Jacob Kerstan and Andrew Wright, were visiting him from Azusa Pacific University in greater Los Angeles. Rowe recently graduated from the university and moved to the Lancaster area, about 60 miles (100 kilometers) west of



In this Jan. 17, 2015, photo provided by Peter Rowe, Rowe, right, takes a selfie with friends Jacob Kerstan, left, Andrew Wright, third from left and actor Sylvester Stallone in Philadelphia. AP

Philadelphia.

Yet in all the time spent in L.A., Rowe said, they never saw a famous person.

"What are the chances of meeting him, that celebrity, right there?" he said of the Stal-

lone encounter, calling it "an unreal experience."

Stallone is in Philadelphia for the shooting of "Creed," the latest installment in the series. It stars Michael B. Jordan, who appeared in "Fruitvale Station,"

as the grandson of early Rocky foe Apollo Creed.

A representative handling casting for the Stallone movie did not immediately reply to a message asking about the photo on Tuesday.

Comedy Central to roast Justin Bieber

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Comedy Central says Justin Bieber will be the victim of its next roast.

The channel said Tuesday that the pop star will face the music at a taping in Los Angeles on a still-unannounced air date.

In a posting on his Twitter account, Bieber said he's long wanted to be roasted but was told by Comedy Central that he needed to provide more material—and he's worked hard to do that, he said.

Among events that appear ripe for mockery: the egging of a neighbor's house and the monkey he left in Germany.

Last weekend, "Saturday Night Live" took on his new Calvin Klein ad, with "SNL" cast member Kate McKinnon strutting as the underwear-clad, tattooed Bieber.

James Franco was the subject of the last Comedy Central roast.

In this Sept. 30, 2014 file photo, Justin Bieber leaves an event in Paris. Comedy Central said Tuesday, Jan. 20, 2015, that Bieber will be roasted at a taping in Los Angeles.



AP

Readers share many reasons for choosing to be cremated

DEAR ABBY: I just finished the letter from "Plotting and Planning in Arizona" (Oct. 5), regarding why cremation is so popular. There are also other reasons.

My father, a WWII veteran, had planned to be buried in a national veterans' cemetery. After his death we were informed that the only option currently available was interment in the veterans' wall of honor columbarium, because the cemetery had run out of space for traditional burials.

PROUD DAUGHTER OF WWII VET

DEAR PROUD DAUGHTER: "Plotting and Planning" guessed one reason was cost, while another might be that we live in a more mobile society. Readers agreed, but offered additional input:

DEAR ABBY: Several people I know prefer cremation because they are claustrophobic. Even the thought of being shut up in a casket gives them the heebie-jeebies.

DAVID IN EAST MOLINE, ILL.

DEAR ABBY: Rather than be buried in a cemetery (\$\$\$) or be cremated (my kids objected), I'm donating my body to medical science. I have degenerative arthritis, asthma and other minor conditions. Perhaps by doing this, I can help one of my own or someone else, contribute to medical science and prolong a few lives.

CAROL IN LONG BEACH, CALIF.

DEAR ABBY: A few reasons why I have requested cremation: First, due to modern technology, it is now possible to take a portion of one's cremains and turn them into diamondlike gems, one of which I'd like to leave to my dear mother-in-law to be.

Second, because of the proliferation of fine mini-urns—which may be used as jewelry—I intend to have a portion of my ashes distributed to a few of the women who have touched my life in various ways over the years. I feel it is not only my right but also my duty to avoid saddling others with the exorbitant costs of today's funeral extravaganzas.

KIFFIN, THE PRAGMATIST

DEAR ABBY: Cremation has a lot going for it. "Green burials" are becoming more popular. You can be wrapped in a shroud and buried in the ground. No chemicals, everything is biodegradable—ashes to ashes, dust to dust.

KEEP IT NATURAL

DEAR ABBY: Being an avid scuba diver, I have instructed my family that I wish to be cremated and my ashes turned into part of the memorial reef by the Neptune Society. This will help to create an underwater reef system not only for fish, but for divers to enjoy. That way, I'll be able to return to nature, give divers a place to enjoy and forever be back in the water that I have always loved.

SCUBA SHELL

Linkin Park cancels tour after lead singer injures his leg

NEW YORK (AP)—Linkin Park is canceling the rest of its U.S. tour after its lead singer injured his leg.

Chester Bennington says he needs immediate medical attention and it's impossible for him to perform. Bennington hasn't said how he injured his leg.

Linkin Park's "The Hunting Party" tour kicked off last week. The rock band performed only three concerts.

Police: Fitness model killed by train was running on tracks

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A fitness model and actor who was killed when he was hit by a train was running on the tracks ahead of the train while filming a promotional video for his website with two crew members when he was hit by the train.

Detectives have reviewed video from a camera atop the Metrolink commuter train that shows 37-year-old George Gregory Plitt Jr. running between the rails Saturday, Burbank police Officer Joshua Kendrick said.

"The conductor can see somebody on the tracks a distance away," Kendrick said. The conductor was braking and using the horn, "and for one reason or another, unfortunately, Mr. Plitt did not get off the tracks."

The train eventually struck Plitt, and he left the view of the camera, Kendrick said.

He said detectives were trying to get another video filmed by friends of Plitt from a different angle.

Friends initially said Plitt had misjudged the situation and tripped and fell before he was hit by the train.

"It was just a freaky moment where something got out of control," said Warren Coulter, who had been friends for 15 years

Bennington appeared on stage with crutches at the band's Sunday concert in Indianapolis.

He said Tuesday he's "disappointed" he can't perform and called the first few shows "magical."

Fans can seek refunds for the remaining 16 shows.

The Grammy Award-winning band's hits include "In the End," "Numb" and "New Divide."

Police: Fitness model killed by train was running on tracks

with Plitt, who went by "Greg."

Plitt, among the more recognizable faces and physiques in the fitness industry, was shooting a video for his website with two crew members when he was hit by the train.

Coulter said Plitt was a West Point graduate and Army Ranger who had jumped out of planes more than 1,000 times in his life and had a taste for the extreme but also treated everyone and everything with respect and care as befitting his military past.

Plitt, a native of Baltimore who settled in Los Angeles more than 10 years ago, appeared on more than 200 magazine covers, Bravo's reality television shows "Work Out" and "Friends to Lovers," and NBC's daytime soap opera "Days of Our Lives," according to his personal website.

A motivational video on the website shows Plitt working out on the tracks as a Metrolink train passes by, and a workout video shows him straddling train tracks in pushup position with an arm on either rail.

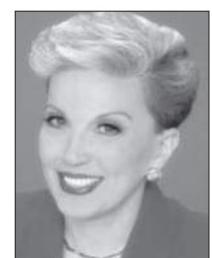
"Anything that deals with trains is serious," Kendrick said. "You've got to stay away from those tracks."

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



DEAR ABBY: I'm opting for cremation when my time comes. I don't want to be dug up in the future for someone's science project, grave robbers or archaeologists. I have "urned" my rest.

RALPHEE IN ALABAMA

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable—and most frequently requested—poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes



I'M THINKING OF STARTING MY OWN TALK RADIO SHOW.

I'LL SPOUT SIMPLISTIC OPINIONS FOR HOURS ON END, RIDICULE ANYONE WHO DISAGREES WITH ME, AND GENERALLY FOSTER DIVISIVENESS, CYNICISM, AND A LOWER LEVEL OF PUBLIC DIALOG!



By Bill Waterson

Garfield®



IT WOULD SEEM YOU WERE BORN FOR THE JOB.

IMAGINE GETTING PAID TO ACT LIKE A SIX-YEAR OLD!



I WAS VERY INVOLVED IN ATHLETICS, GARFIELD

I WAS A STUDENT MANAGER...



OF THE CHESS TEAM

HE WIPE THEIR BROWS

By Jim Davis

Adam@home



WHAT IS ALL THIS, ADAM?

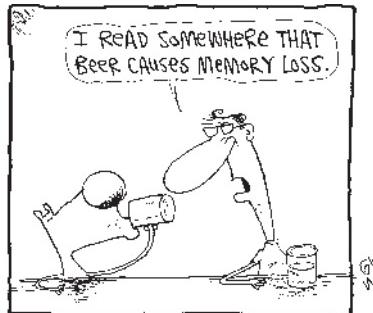
I'M WORKING ON THIS PODCAST CASE.

I'M MAPPING IT OUT. THIS GUY MIGHT REALLY BE INNOCENT!

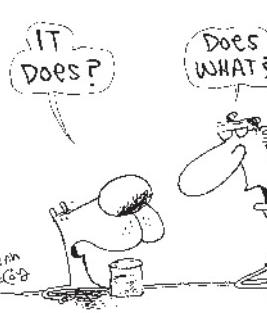
THE LONE WITNESS SAID HE ROBBED A GUY RIGHT AFTER AN 8-PIECE SHRIMP BASKET AT LONG JOHN SILVERS.

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex



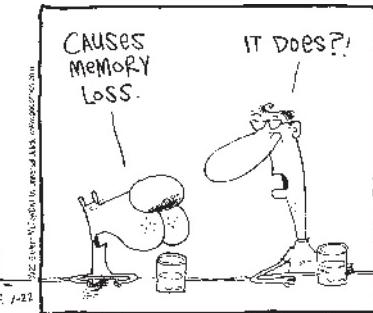
I READ SOMEWHERE THAT BEER CAUSES MEMORY LOSS.



IT DOES?



DOES WHAT?



CAUSES MEMORY LOSS.

IT DOES?

By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

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5	Fellow	39	Exist	React to	21 IRS	employee
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14	Old	45 "Faust"	3 Sandwich	alternative	26 Ailments	alternative
15	Italian	dramatist	treat	4 Plains	28 Goose	egg
16	money	49 Ball game	50 Lawyers'	of the	29 —	Republic
17	Brewery	spoiler	org.	Argentine	Sled dog	(Madagascar)
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40	contents					
41	35 "Tobacco					
42	Road"					
43	author					

Solution time: 24 mins.



Yesterday's answer 1-22

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Balthazar Getty, 40; Guy Fieri, 47; Diane Lane, 50; John Hurt, 75.

Happy Birthday: Put the past behind you and move into the future with greater optimism. Broaden your horizons and you will open up a window of opportunity through the people you encounter as you strive to reach your goals. Love and romance can be expected, along with raising your standard of living and changing the dynamics in your family. Your numbers are 2, 9, 17, 23, 36, 47, 49.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Reconnect with people you've worked with in the past and get ready to make changes to your life that will give you greater incentive to do your very best. Romance is in the stars. **TAURUS** (April 20-May 20): Take a look at what you have and why. Appreciation will give you a sense of accomplishment. You don't have to impress others by being an overachiever or a big spender. Charity begins at home, where it will secure what's important to you. **GEMINI** (May 21-June 20): Be ready to experience both highs and lows. Trust in yourself. A competitive individual will try to outdo you. Don't fuel an argument when it's your success that will be the best revenge. Romance and celebration are highlighted. **CANCER** (June 21-July 22): A little effort and affection will make a difference to someone you love. Plan a trip or visit someone who can offer you insight into

your heritage. Don't make an impulsive decision regarding your work that might affect your reputation. **LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22): Plan to do something you find exhilarating. A challenge will enable you to impress someone who can help you get ahead or make favorable lifestyle changes. Do your best to turn a wrong into a right. Speak up. **VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Take care of your health needs. Check into natural remedies and a fitness regimen that suits your needs. Partnerships may need an adjustment if the balance isn't equal. Determine what needs to be done and make it happen. **LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Surround yourself with friends, family or your special someone. Love is on the rise, so whether you have a partner already or are searching for one, showing affection and being flirtatious will play in your favor. **SCORPIO** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Keep busy and refrain from engaging in discussions that are likely to lead to a heated debate. Make love, not war, and do your best to take care of your personal affairs and responsibilities. Work alone for best results. **SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Pleasure trips or spending time with good friends or neighbors will improve your outlook. Do something that will contribute to your looks or enhance an important relationship. Love is on the rise and a commitment should be made. **PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20): An observant approach to whatever is going on around you will help you avoid loss, setbacks or being put in an awkward position. Use your intelligence and your intuition to come up with workable solutions. **Birthday Baby:** You are innovative and unpredictable. You are colorful and fun-loving.

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NFL finds 11 Pats' balls under-inflated

 As the NFL investigates deflate-gate, a report says that it wasn't just one under-inflated football, which Indianapolis Colts linebacker D'Qwell Jackson happened to intercept, that was suspect.

A report by ESPN's Chris Mortensen said that 11 of the New England Patriots' 12 allotted game footballs in Sunday's AFC championship game were each under-inflated by 2 pounds of air per square inch, according to Mortensen's league sources. That's hard to chalk up as a coincidence, and now the Patriots will face some hard questions. According to NFL rules, each team in NFL games makes 12 primary balls available for testing by the referee two hours and 15 minutes before kickoff. In addition, the home team makes 12 backup balls available. The visiting team can bring 12 backup balls in games played outdoors.

If the report is accurate, how were 11 balls under-inflated, each by a significant amount?

The ball is, by rule, to be inflated with 12.5 to 13.5 pounds of air per square inch and weigh 14 to 15 ounces. Two pounds of



Official game balls for NFL football's Super Bowl XLIX wait to be laced at the Wilson Sporting Goods Co. in Ada, Ohio, Tuesday, Jan. 20, 2015. The New England Patriots face the Seattle Seahawks for the NFL championship on Sunday, Feb. 1, 2015, in Glendale, Ariz.

air per square inch is a lot, given those guidelines. It's surprising the officials, who handle the footballs throughout the game, didn't notice. Reports on Tuesday said after Jackson's interception in the second quarter, word got to NFL director of

football operations Mike Kensil in the press box and he told the officials at halftime.

A source told Mortensen the league is "disappointed ... angry ... distraught" at the latest findings.

Adding to the story, CBSS-

ports.com's Jason La Canfora reported that in the Baltimore Ravens-Patriots divisional playoff game, some of the Ravens believed the kicking balls used in the game were under-inflated.

The NFL had no comment im-

mediately on Mortensen's report.

As the NFL's investigation continues, the Patriots' past will continue to be brought up. The Patriots and coach Bill Belichick are still reminded of Spygate, the 2007 scandal in which the team videotaped opponents' signals. The Patriots were fined \$250,000, Belichick was fined \$500,000 and the team was stripped of a first-round pick. If the NFL finds that the Patriots purposefully deflated footballs against the Colts, which would have made them easier to pass and catch in the rain, the league

could fine them, and there was a report the NFL could take a draft pick from New England.

The Patriots won the AFC championship game 45-7, and under-inflated balls weren't the reason for that. But it will be on the NFL to find out how almost all of the primary footballs provided by the Patriots were under-inflated. Even if the footballs weren't the reason the Patriots are going to the Super Bowl, if they are found to have altered the balls after the referee's pregame inspection, the NFL will presumably send a strong message.

Aoki finalizes \$4.7M, 1-year deal with Giants

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Nori Aoki is offering a bold challenge to World Series MVP Madison Bumgarner, one of his new San Francisco Giants teammates.

"I've heard that Madison likes to wrestle, I think I'm going to initiate the wrestling," the left fielder joked Tuesday.

Aoki brings more than just a big personality and sense of humor to the World Series champions. Manager Bruce Bochy is projecting him as the team's starting left fielder, while noting Aoki's versatility allows him to fill in for Angel Pagan in center field and Hunter Pence in right as needed. Pagan will begin spring training next month as the leadoff hitter, another job Aoki can handle with his speed and ability to steal bases.

"Of course I'd like to hit at the top of the order but that's going to be his decision," Aoki said, speaking through regular interpreter Kosuke Inaji, who joins him in the move to the Bay Area.

Aoki finalized his \$4.7 million, one-year contract Monday and was formally introduced a day later at AT&T Park. Both sides appear hopeful he could stick around beyond this season.

Bochy figures Aoki might reconsider the wrestling match once he lines up next to the 6-foot-5, 235-pound Bumgarner.

"That may be our opening day deal, to have these two get in the ring. That would be entertaining, I will say, speed against bulk," Bochy said. "I don't know if he'll stay with that comment once he stands next to Madison. He may back off that one."

Aoki played last season with Kansas City, which lost the World Series to the Giants in seven games.

"I've always liked the city of San Francisco but not only that I've always had admiration for the Giants and the history they've had," Aoki said. "Hav-

ing played against them the last three years, they played together as a team. They have a team that has a chance to play for a championship each year."

One order of business off the field will be doing something nice for bench coach Ron Wotus, who has previously worn Aoki's new No. 23 - through three World Series championship runs the past five years, too.

"Twenty-three is a lucky number to me," Aoki said. "I know that one of the coaches wears No. 23. I heard he likes to play golf, maybe I can buy him some golf clubs and maybe even a Rolex."

Given the departure of switch-hitting slugger Pablo Sandoval to Boston last fall, San Francisco's brass realized that without that power, the Giants might have to find creative ways to score runs with aggressive baserunning and contributions from throughout the lineup to fill Panda void.

Bochy said Aoki is a tough out and has the ability to hit to all fields and is equally as reliable on defense. Outfielder Gregor Blanco, who reached agreement on a \$7.5 million, two-year contract Sunday, will come off the bench and spell players for days off.

"He kind of reminds of Pablo a little bit, he's not going to hit the home runs like Pablo," Bochy said of Aoki. "We acquired him to play."

Aoki, 33, receives a \$4 million base salary this year, and the Giants have a \$5.5 million option for 2016 with a \$700,000 buyout. The option would become mutual if Aoki has 550 plate appearances this year, and he would receive the buyout if he exercises the option and the team declines.

Aoki can earn an additional \$1.5 million in performance bonuses each year based on plate appearances: \$100,000 each for 400, 425, 450, 475 and 500; and \$250,000 apiece for 525, 550, 575 and 600. The team will release him at the end of the contract, making him a free agent again.

S I D E B A R

Most of the NFL head coach openings went to defensive minds

ENGLEWOOD, Colo. (AP)—John Elway broke the mold.

The Denver Broncos general manager bucked this year's trend when he hired his former backup QB and offensive coordinator Gary Kubiak as his head coach.

Every other head coach vacancy that's been filled has gone to men with defensive roots: John Fox in Chicago, Jack Del Rio in Oakland, Jim Tomsula in San Francisco, Rex Ryan in Buffalo and Todd Bowles with the Jets.

Oddly, every one of those teams also had trouble on offense in 2014.

So did the Falcons, the only head coaching vacancy that hasn't been filled.

It appears that offensive coordinators Josh McDaniels of New England and Adam Gase, Peyton Manning's co-architect in Denver, will have to keep waiting as defensive coordinators Dan Quinn of Seattle and Detroit's Teryl Austin are the only candidates to get follow-up interviews with the Falcons.

If Quinn is the choice, the Falcons will have to wait to offer him the job until after Seattle plays New England in the Super Bowl on Feb. 1.

Quinn's star rose with the Seahawks' 43-8 wallop of Elway's Broncos in last year's Super Bowl, something NFL Network analyst Terrell Davis believes has driven this

defensive shift, along with the aerial fireworks show the league has become.

"One, you look at who won the Super Bowl last year. They've got a formula people want," Davis said. "They've got a good quarterback and their offense was good; it just wasn't as good as their defense. If you have a good defense, you can mask a lot of deficiencies on offense. And two, it really is about offenses in this league and if you can stop them."

Then again, Davis said, it could just be coincidence.

"Maybe it just happens to be the best candidates are defensive coaches," Davis said.

There's no ambiguity about it, insisted former NFL executive and current ESPN analyst Bill Polian.

"Each hire, each situation is different. That's one part of the puzzle," Polian said. "The second part is the pool of candidates is what it is. In any given year, you might have more people who come from the offensive side of the ball as opposed to the defensive. And third, anybody that's asked for my advice, I have said, 'Hire the best person regardless of orientation.'

"Because what you're hiring is a head coach. He's going to hire a defensive coordinator. He's going to hire an offensive coordinator. They're the ones that are going to determine

largely the scheme. So, hire the best person whose philosophy of football fits how you want to operate."

The only other factor that should come into the equation is previous head coaching experience, Polian said.

That certainly burnished the resumes of Fox, Del Rio and Ryan. Fox was 49-22 in four seasons in Denver even though the Broncos came up short in the playoffs each year.

"Guys who have been a successful head coach before, there's probably something to be said for that," Polian said.

New Bills owner Terry Pegula said experience was the tilting factor in Ryan's hiring. In San Francisco, it came down to Tomsula or Gase, but the deciding factor wasn't their backgrounds, CEO Jed York said.

"You're not the head coach of the defense. You're not the head coach of the offense," York said. "You're the head coach of the entire team."

Interestingly, teams led by head coaches with offensive roots had an average rank of 16.1 in points per game this season to 16.0 for defensive coaches (excluding the Raiders, who switched mid-season from defensive to offensive). The season started with 16 offensive and 16 defensive coaches.

So, there was essentially no difference in performance on

average based on the expertise of the head coach.

"Yeah, if you want to use that metric," Polian said. "When you use the word 'expertise' of the coach, would you presume that Bill Belichick knows only defense? OK, so that's my point. If you hire a good coach, he understands both sides of the ball, how it fits, how he wants to do it, how it fits his personnel, etc. etc. We're hiring head coaches here, not coordinators."

Raiders owner Mark Davis was initially looking for an offensive-minded coach to help quarterback Derek Carr develop, something he told Del Rio in their first conversation.

"And Jack said, 'Whoa, whoa, whoa, stop! I know about offense as well,'" Davis said.

Labels don't matter when you're a head coach, Del Rio said, because if you're a "defensive guy," quickly "you become an offensive guy as well."

He pointed to the two coaches who are in the Super Bowl.

"Bill Belichick was a defensive guy and he's doing a pretty good job with his offense," Del Rio said. "Pete Carroll is a defensive guy in his background, but he's doing a pretty good job up there in Seattle with their offense and with their team. So,

I think when you hire a head coach, you get that - you get a head coach."

Thunder finally get over .500 mark, top Heat



MIAMI (AP)—Just about every statistic was what the Miami Heat would have wanted.

They kept Kevin Durant and Russell Westbrook off the foul line for the most part, watched Oklahoma City's two stars combine to miss every 3-pointer they tried, limited both to under 20 points and held the Thunder far below their typical scoring output of late.

And even that wasn't enough.

Durant and Westbrook both scored 19 points and the Thunder beat the Heat 94-86 on Tuesday night—the win putting Oklahoma City over the .500 mark for the first time this season.

"We did a great job of keeping our composure, just playing through the defense," Thunder coach Scott Brooks said.

The stats that doomed the Heat: A 21-11 difference in turnovers, a 22-9 disparity in points off turnovers, and the Thunder getting up 92 shots to Miami's 68.

"To leave a real competitive defensive game like that on the table is pretty disappointing," Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said.

Westbrook grabbed 10 rebounds, Durant added eight rebounds and eight assists, Reggie Jackson scored 16 points and Anthony Morrow added 12 for Oklahoma City - who were nine games under .500 in late November, when Durant was still sidelined with a broken foot.

The Thunder are 13-5 with Durant in the lineup, and now winners of 18 of their last 26 - but Durant said getting over the .500 mark meant "nothing."

"We have to keep pushing," Durant said. "We're not worried about it. We didn't come in here and rejoice because we're over .500."

Dwyane Wade scored 18 points and Chris Bosh added 16 for Miami, which fell to 7-13 at home.

Sharapova saves 2 match points, advances at Australian Open



MELBOURNE, Australia (AP)—Maria Sharapova saved two match points in a narrow escape against No. 150-ranked Alexandra Panova at the Australian Open on Wednesday, advancing to the third round with a 6-1, 4-6, 7-5 win.

Second-seeded Sharapova made 51 unforced errors as she went for the lines, saving some of her high-risk winners for when she needed them most.

She faced two match points in the 10th game of the third set, ripping big forehand winners on both points against Panova, a qualifier who entered the Australian Open without a single match win at five previous majors.

Sharapova, who won the 2008 Australian Open and has five Grand Slam titles, struggled with her serve in the second and third sets as the match extended to 2 hours, 32 minutes in a temperature topping 33 Celsius (91F).

"I'm just happy to get through - I was one point away twice today from being out of the tournament," said Sharapova, who started the season by winning the Brisbane International title. "I was not playing my best tennis today."

"I think she played a pretty inspired match. She came out here with not



Oklahoma City Thunder's Russell Westbrook dunks against the Miami Heat during the first half of an NBA basketball game in Miami, Tuesday, Jan. 20, 2015.

Durant was 0 for 8 from 3-point range—matching the second-worst showing of his career—and the Thunder got to the foul line only 10 times, less than half their team average coming into the night.

It didn't matter, especially after Miami shot only 42 percent in the final

three quarters. Miami had three shots to tie or take the lead in the fourth quarter, all of them missing and the Thunder would eventually pull away.

"We weren't loose with the ball, but we weren't taking care of the ball," Bosh said.

The game was the exact midpoint

of the regular season for both teams. Oklahoma City went 21-20 in its first 41 games, Miami went 18-23.

"Trying," Wade said, when asked to describe the season's first half.

Spurs 109, Nuggets 99

In Denver, Kawhi Leonard had 17

FIFA returns \$100M to Brazil; World Cup cost \$15B

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP)—Football's world governing body FIFA said Tuesday it had set up a \$100 million World Cup Legacy Fund for Brazil, aimed at sports facilities, youth and women's football, and medical and health projects.

FIFA President Sepp Blatter pledged two years ago to give back some of the 2014 World Cup income to grassroots programs in the South American country, which spent about \$15 billion organizing last year's World Cup.

Spending on the Rio de Janeiro 2016 Olympics is expected to top \$15 billion.

FIFA Secretary General Jerome Valcke, speaking in Sao Paulo, said the World Cup "inevitably has an impact on society and the environment in the host country." He said organizers had a "responsibility to limit the associated negative effects, while at the same time maximizing the huge positive impact it can have."

It will take years to assess the impact of the World Cup in Brazil.

It is clear that Brazilian politicians underestimated the costs, stadiums were late getting ready, and many related infrastructure project were cancelled, or have yet to be completed. On



For the Game. For the World.

the field, matches were high-scoring and jam-packed, and a heavy police and military presence helped discourage the kind of protests that overshadowed the 2013 Confederations Cup.

Brazil was eliminated in a stunning 7-1 loss to Germany in the semifinals.

FIFA, a not-for-profit organization based in Switzerland, generated more than \$4 billion in sales from the 2014 World Cup. The figure could reach \$5 billion for Russia's 2018 World Cup.

An analysis earlier this month said Brazil spent about \$3 billion on new and refurbished stadiums, 90 percent of it being public money. Former President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva had promised all stadiums would be privately financed.

Government officials acknowledged that public holidays associated with the World Cup were partly to blame for the country falling into a technical recession late last year.

Four of the 12 stadiums used for the World Cup are almost certain to become white elephants. Some are faced with hosting weddings and children's events to generate income. Several are expected to host a few games for the Rio Olympics.

points and 15 rebounds in another strong outing since returning from a hand injury, and the San Antonio Spurs won their fourth in a row by beating the Denver Nuggets 109-99 on Tuesday night.

Tony Parker scored 18 points and Tim Duncan added 16, all in the second half, to help the Spurs beat the Nuggets for the fifth straight time.

Leonard has been a big part of San Antonio's recent surge, playing for the third time since returning from a bruised hand that had sidelined him for the previous 15 games.

Kenneth Faried had 26 points and 14 rebounds for the Nuggets, who lost their fourth straight, including their second in two nights. Golden State routed the Nuggets by 43 points Monday, Denver's biggest loss of the season and the seventh biggest defeat in franchise history.

Arron Afflalo added 21 points for the Nuggets.

Leading 66-65 in the third quarter, the Spurs used a 7-0 burst to extend their advantage to eight points before settling for an 80-76 lead heading to the fourth.

Leonard then hit two 3-pointers as part of an 11-2 run by the Spurs starting the final period, stretching their advantage to 91-78 with 9:18 left for their biggest lead to that point.

Denver pulled to 100-92 on successive layups by Wilson Chandler and Faried but Parker cut off the Nuggets' momentum by connecting on a 3-pointer with 2:01 remaining. The Nuggets could not threaten the rest of the way.

San Antonio took its first lead of the game 29-27 on Cory Joseph's jumper with 9:03 remaining in the second quarter. The Spurs led 51-48 at halftime, getting five points from Manu Ginobili in the last 1:25 of the period.

Valcke acknowledged that "some of the stadiums are not used permanently." He said it would "take time to use all the stadiums at their maximum."

He also responded to criticism of FIFA in the Brazilian media.

"Our commitment (is) to be in Brazil after the World Cup, not to leave, as some media said — I mean (comments like) 'FIFA is coming to Brazil taking the money out of Brazil and run away from Brazil right after the final'. It is not true."

"FIFA is committed to develop and support football wherever we organize our events."

Despite Brazil's prestige in the game, Jose Maria Marin, president of the Brazilian Football Federation, said some of the legacy money was targeted for the 15 states where the game is not as well funded.

"We took on a commitment with the states that did not host the event to make sure the benefits of the World Cup will reach places where, although the love of football is huge, the structure offered to the community still cannot be compared to that which we see in the bigger cities."

FIFA said the Brazilian federation was responsible for the projects — subject to FIFA approval. FIFA said the spending would be audited by accounting firm KPMG.

Sonics win to stay in playoff race

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roelyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The 670 Sonics eased past Sun Palace Hotel, 65-43, in the second boys U19 division game in the 2014 Tan Holdings Basketball Classic last Tuesday night at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

The win allowed the Sonics to get out of three-way logjam for third place in the team standings, as they now hold a 4-2 record. With the Sonics now in third place behind the unbeaten Rollers 1 (6-0) and Dream Team (4-1), the former boost-

ed their playoff chances and gained some cushion against the Ol'Aces (3-2) and Kagman Risers (3-2).

Only the Top 4 teams will advance to the next round and with the division leading Rollers 1 a shoe-in in the playoffs, the next four teams will fight for the last three semis seats.

The Sonics backcourt duo of Jack Aranda and Jomac Manzano provided spark to the team's offense as they combined for 20 points, while frontliners Erick Dela Rosa, Emerson Feria, and Jun Javier dominated the paint, teaming for 24 more markers.

With Sonics getting baskets from both inside and out, they raced to a 38-21 advantage at the break and protected the double-digit spread in the second half en route to the 22-point winning margin.

Meanwhile, Rollers 1 moved one win away from sweeping the elimination round after showing no love lost to sister team Rollers 3, 72-37, in the first match of the day.

Mike Espinosa anchored Rollers 1's demolition of Rollers 3, as he sizzled for 26 points. Jun

Fidelino chipped in 17, as the team's Top 2 scorers made up for the absence of key players Prince Factor and Kobe Mendoza.

With the two important players of the Rollers 1 out, Espinosa stepped up early and scored

14 points to give his squad a commanding 34-18 lead after the first half. In the second half, Rollers 3, the youngest among the three Rollers team competing in the league, failed to make enough headway to cut the deficit to a decent number. Rollers 3 remained winless in six games

and is already eliminated along with Sun Palace (0-6).

Aaron Ogumoro led Rollers 3's losing cause with his 13 points, while Jake Pangelian contributed 11.

Action in the boys U19 division will continue today with a pair of games. In the opening tiff, the Ol'Aces and Dream Team collide at 5:30pm, while Kagman takes on Rollers 2 in the nightcap at 8pm. In the lone women's division match, Kanoa Resort (2-6) battles IT&E (5-3) at 7pm.

The 2014 Tan Holdings Basketball Classic is on its final

week of the elimination round.

First Game

Rollers 1 72—Espinosa 26, Fidelino 17, Vivero 7, Iglesias 6, Arciaga 4, Ong 4, Cayadong 2.

Rollers 3 37—Ogumoro 13, Pangelian 11, Kisa 5, Arceo 4, Mamaril 4, Alonzo 2, Mendoza 2, Cruz 2.

Scoring by halves: 34-18, 72-37.

Second Game

Sonics 65—Manzano 11, Aranda 9, Javier 8, Feria 8, Dela Rosa 8, Flores 4, Alegre 4, De Guzman 4, Rabasto 2.

Sun Palace 43—Omengkar 4, Capuyon 11, Manalili 7, Benavente 6, Ocaña 4, Edralin 4.

Scoring by halves: 38-21, 65-43.

Swim in the waters off World Resort.

In April, SSC will hold the Escape from Managaha (April 11) and Swim Marathon (April 23), while in May, the club is scheduled to compete in three tournaments—



the NMISF's season-ending event on May 2, Guam's B/C championships on May 16, and the Guam Swimming Federation Championships on May 29 and 30.

This Saturday's competition will be SSC's first this year and will kick off the busy first two quarters for the club.

Next month, SSC will have the Meek and Mighty Ocean Swim at the Pacific Islands Club on Feb. 7, while two events are lined up in March, starting off with the International Invitational Swim Meet (March 13 and 14) and ending with the Saipan Ocean

SSC to hold pentathlon meet

Saipan Swim Club is bringing back its pentathlon meet this Saturday at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool.

Last held in 2010, the tournament will start at 8:30am and will feature the club's swimmers in all age groups.

In the 9 to 10 and 11 to 12 age groups, participants will race in the 50m butterfly, 50m backstroke, 50m breaststroke, 50m freestyle, and 200m individual medley. In the three other and older age divisions—13 to 14, 15 to 16, and 18-and-over, swimmers will compete in longer races, namely: 100m butterfly, 100m backstroke, 100m breaststroke, 100m freestyle, and 200m IM.

In the youngest age group—the U8—the events are 50m butterfly, 50m backstroke, 50m breaststroke, and 50m freestyle. Swimmers in

Jeffrey Castro and Daron Jones finished with 9 points each for Kagman JV.

Earlier, SSHS JV banked on the combined efforts of JP Taitano, Franko Bondoc, and Emmanuel Cobacha in breezing past MHS 9.

Taitano ended up with 12 points, while Bondoc and Cobacha contributed 10 points each for the Junior Mantas, who improved to 3-0.

Adrian De Luna was the lone double-digit scorer for MHS 9 with 12 points as his team evened its record to 1-1.

Mahmoud broke the deadlock when he headed in an Ali Adnan Kadhim cross three minutes into the new half.

Yaseen sealed the win in the last moments when he gathered a Yaser Safa Kasim pass and found the net at the near post.

Iraq coach Radhi Shenaishil Swadi said he was disappointed his side would not have more time to prepare for Iran in the quarterfinals.

"But we've got young players, and we're working on them to get ready," Swadi said.

Palestine almost equalized minutes after Mahmoud's opener when Ashraf Alfawaghra charged off a loose Iraq pass,

First Game

SSHS JV 61—Taitano 12, Bondoc 10, Cobacha 10, Siech 8, Aque 7, Borromeo 6, Alipio 4, Ada 2, Diyco 2.

MHS 9 32—De Luna 12, Prado 7, Mendoza 4, Huliganga 3, mamril 2, Pangelian 2, Tanghal 2.

Scoring by quarters: 12-5, 28-7, 42-23, 61-32.

Second Game

MHS JV 49—Dancoe 19, Castillo 8, Diaz 6, Deocares 5, Cudia 3, Ellama 3, Bucayo 2, Ermitanio 2, Cristobal 1.

but his shot was blocked by the outstretched boot of Iraq keeper Jalal Hassan.

Palestine coach Ahmad Al Hassan praised his side's performance against the higher-ranked Iraq, but said the political situation between the Palestinian Territories and Israel hindered his side's preparation.

"We are the only nation in this tournament that is under occupation," he said. "This means we don't have the same resources (as others). The players from Gaza cannot even play in one place—we have to leave Palestine for training."

"All these factors contributed negatively."

KHS JV 28—Castro 9, Jones 9, Aguon 5, Tenorio 3, Salik 2.

Scoring by quarters: 13-6, 19-10, 34-15, 49-28.

Third Game

SSHS 71—Flores 10, Palacio 10, Cruz 8, Javier 8, Rivera 8, Esmundao 6, Ogasawara 6, Roquero 6, Feria 5, Bondoc 2, Kintaro 2.

KHS 49—Palino 20, Sakisat 15, Prado 5, Faisao 2, Lizama 2, Paran 2, Torres 2.

Scoring by quarters: 12-11, 33-23, 50-27, 71-49.

MHS

From Page 28

MHS also defeated GCA in their first meeting last Jan. 8 in the early rematch of last year's finals. The Lady Dolphins dethroned the Lady Eagles—the 2013 champions—in last year's title match, 24-26, 25-20, 18-16.

In other all-varsity games, GCA earlier scored a 25-10, 25-21, 12-15 win over Kagman High School, while Saipan International School downed Mt. Carmel School, 25-17, 25-17, 12-15. The Eagles evened their record to 3-3, while Kagman dropped to 1-4 and SIS improved to 3-2 to tie their victims.

RAYS

From Page 28

Southern exploded for 17 points in the third quarter, while a dizzying full-court trapping defense held Kagman to only 4 points as the Mantas entered the final canto enjoying a 50-27 spread.

Southern's suffocating defense resulted to numerous steals and in the process forced Kagman to consecutive turnovers.

Edilberto Javier Jr. and Jethro Cruz combined for 12 of Southern's 17 points in the third

quarter.

Kagman, behind Andrew Palino and Melvin Sakisat Jr., managed to make one last comeback attempt and conspired in a 10-2 exchange to trim the huge deficit to 15, 52-37, midway in the final canto.

That was the closest the Ayuyus could get as the Mantas scored again in bunches to completely bury Kagman in the match.

Gerald Flores and Tyler Palacios led SSHS' balanced offense with 10 points apiece while Cruz, Javier and Rivera added 8

ter a nasty head clash with Jordan's Ahmad Mohammad, who was, somewhat harshly, shown a yellow card. Morishige returned to the field minutes later.

Jordan opened the second half vastly more organized, and managed to put the Japanese on the back foot, but was unable to make the most of its chances as fatigue set in.

"I'm naturally very disappointed to be heading back to Jordan tomorrow," Jordan coach Ray Wilkins said. "It's going to take a very, very good team to beat (Japan)."

Player-of-the-match Shinji Kagawa put the win beyond doubt eight minutes from the

end of regulation time when he met a long centering pass from Yoshinori Muto in front of goal and fired in, in front of a sellout crowd of 25,000, including tennis star Kei Nishikori, in town for the Australian Open.

"The team victory is the most important thing," Kagawa said. "A very tough game is waiting for us, so we should prepare well for the victory."

Japan has yet to concede a goal after seeing off Palestine, Iraq and Jordan.

"The team has defended very well," Aguirre said. "Difficult games are waiting for us."

After Iraq and Palestine went to halftime at 0-0 in Canberra, Mahmood broke the deadlock when he headed in an Ali Adnan Kadhim cross three minutes into the new half.

Yaseen sealed the win in the last moments when he gathered a Yaser Safa Kasim pass and found the net at the near post.

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Palestine almost equalized minutes after Mahmood's opener when Ashraf Alfawaghra charged off a loose Iraq pass,

Saipan Billiards Association 8-Ball League 2014 Summer-Fall Season

PHOTOS By JON PEREZ



Jokers Str8 Shooters members receive their third place trophy in the SBA Budweiser Cup during the awards ceremony for the Saipan Billiards Association 8-Ball League 2014 Summer-Fall Season held early this month at the Pacific Islands Club's Charley's Cabaret.



From left, SBA Thursday league most valuable player and Smoke Pub Magic 8 Ball's Rodel Dela Cruz and Tuesday league co-MVPs Juancho Mendoza of the Jokers Str8 Shooters and Marc Brian Nelvis of the Jokers IT&E Voyagers pose with their trophies.



Smoke Pub Magic 8 Ball's Rodel Dela Cruz prepares to hit the No. 6 ball in an elimination round game.



Oscar Sablan gets one of the four 8-Ball on break award.



Budweiser Cup
Thursday league
third place finishers
Jokers Homeboyz
players pose for a
photo.



The Saipan TV Hustlers
settle for the runner-up
trophy after losing to
Jokers IT&E Voyagers
in the Budweiser Cup's
Tuesday league.



Jokers Str8 Shooters' Juancho Mendoza lines up a shot.



Smoke Pub owner Maria Lee Bignayan Labadan, third left, poses with the Magic 8 Ball players and their runner-up trophies in the Budweiser Cup's Thursday league.



Wild Bills players pose for a photo before playing the Route33 Armatech Hustlers in the semifinals of the Budweiser Cup.



Players and sponsors of Budweiser Cup Tuesday league champions Jokers IT&E Voyagers smile after receiving their awards.



NFL finds 11
Pats' balls
under-inflated

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Saipan Tribune Sports

Thunder finally
get over .500
mark, top Heat

PAGE 25



28 THURSDAY, JANUARY 22, 2015

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Rays sting Ayuyus in MISO caging



By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Saipan Southern High School overcame a slow start and used a second half scoring spurge in cruising to a 71-49 win over Kagman High School in yesterday's final game in the 2014-2015 Marianas Interscholastic Sports Organization High School Boys Basketball League at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

It was the Manta Rays' third straight win after absorbing an 87-56 thumping at the hands of the defending champions, MHS Dolphins exactly a week ago. It was also a double victory celebration for SSHS as its junior varsity squad trounced MHS 9, 61-32, in the first game.



The Ayuyus, the champions in the 2009 and 2010 seasons, dropped to 3-2 with the loss snapping their three-game winning run.

Saipan Southern led by one after 10 minutes of play, 12-11, before slowly establishing some distance against Kagman in the second period to erect a 33-23 halftime lead.

See RAYS on Page 26

MHS opens 2nd half of season with win

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Marianas High School's varsity squad continued to roll past its opponents in the 2014-2015 Marianas Interscholastic Sports Organization Girls Volleyball League.

The Lady Dolphins, despite playing back-to-back games again last Tuesday at the MHS Gymnasium, won both of their matches to hike their record to 6-0.

MHS pulled off a 25-21, 25-13, 15-13 victory over the Saipan Southern High School

Lady Manta Rays in their last match in the first round and then opened the second half of the volleyball season with a win against the Grace Christian Academy Lady Eagles in the all-varsity matches.

Against SSHS, the Jacoby Winkfield-mentored team blew hot and cold as they led from the start in the first set before thwarting the Lady Mantas' repeated attempts to turn the game to their favor.

The Lady Dolphins flexed their muscles in the second and

just blew past the Lady Mantas to seal the win. But they again played a little bit relaxed in the final frame that nearly gave the third set to SSHS.

All three sets are played in the first round with the scores to be tallied and used to break ties in the standings. In the second round, the game will go to a third set only if the match stands at 1-1.

"We're already starting the second half of the season and games will be played best-of-three sets. We will only play a third set if needed," said league coordinator Toni Yamada.

MHS kicked off its title defense drive in the second round with a tough 25-19, 26-24 decision over last year's title rival GCA also last Tuesday.

The Lady Dolphins' regular starting six of Shanna Flores, Knohlynn Gechig, Emily Jones, Beryl Kohnen, Sabrina Pangelinan, and Zarinae Sapong had to dig deep from their bag of tricks to complete the win.

MHS had to work hard for every point as GCA, fought gallantly before losing steam in the latter stages of both sets.

It was the Lady Dolphins' third straight win against the Lady Eagles dating back from last year's championship match.



Saipan International School's Huh Ye Dam eyes the ball as she prepares to make a return in their game against Saipan International School JV in the Marianas Interscholastic Sports Organization Girls Volleyball League last Tuesday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

See MHS on Page 26

Japan, Iraq advance to Asian Cup quarterfinals

By NEIL FRANKLAND
AP SPORTS WRITER

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP)—Keisuke Honda scored in a third straight Asian Cup game as Japan weathered a determined Jordan 2-0 to advance to the quarterfinals as a

group winner on Tuesday.

Iraq followed Japan from Group D after Younis Mahmoud and Ahmed Yaseen gave it a 2-0 victory over already-eliminated Palestine.

Defending champion Ja-

pan will next face the United Arab Emirates in Sydney on Friday, when Iraq plays Iran in Canberra.

The Japanese constantly stretched the

See JAPAN on Page 26



Jordan's Monther Abu Amara, left, and Japan's Keisuke Honda, right, compete for the ball during the AFC Asia Cup soccer match between Japan and Jordan in Melbourne, Australia, Tuesday, Jan. 20, 2015.

AP